The German Tribune

Hamburg, 9 March 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 931 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Bonn seeks long-term united policy

An appropriate response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan must be arrived at within the framework of a long-term, overall Western concept, Bonn feels.

To arrive at one was certainly the declared objective of Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to Washington this months. It has been repeatedly stressed — in the 28 February Bundestag debate on Afghanistan, for instance.

It is a formula in which the most varied political elements are inherent. They include, say, the tacit admission that as yet there is no such thing as an overall Western concept of this kind.

Yet the Western countries have at least come closer in their assessment of Soviet moves in Afghanistan. Initially they were poles apart.

But careful scrutiny of public utterances by individual governments clearly reveals that substantial differences of viewpoint remain on the sense of and benefit to be derived from various attitudes.

The German call for an overall concept is, moreover, partly attributable to anxiety lest US responses to the Afghanistan crisis to date have been based on no definite concepts whatever.

In Bonn the individual measures Washington has so far undertaken to

IN THIS ISSUE

impress on Moscow the gravity of the situation are regarded as penalties for breach of contract, but penalties that are neither adequate nor effective.

President Carter may have said it would not be business as usual with the Soviet Union as long as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continued, but no-one has felt sure words would be followed by actions.

What changes has the invasion of Afghanistan wrought on specific US policies? What genuinely new features may be expected to appear in the US view of the world?

Bonn naturally welcomes America's greater determination to strike a balance in world affairs by stepping up US commitments.

In the past Herr Schmidt, and with him Herr Strauss, the Shadow Chancellor, have both frequently lamented that inactivity or progress by leaps and bounds in US policy might prompt the Soviet Union to misread the signals.

That is why mistrust has not been entirely dispelled and some Western pundits are worried current US responses might lack an air of finality.

Yet Foreign Minister Genscher nonetheless told the Bundestag that he felt the change in US policy was a deep-seated one and it would be a mistake to interpret US behaviour in terms of the Presidential election campaign.

There is certainly one good point to the German demand for an overall concept. It is clearly realised that the Afghanistan crisis could be a long, drawn-out affair.

The effects to which it gives rise would not even vanish if an opportunity of ending the crisis were to arise over night, as it were.

Besides, even if the Soviet Union were to take up Western offers to settle the current crisis and enter into negotiations accordingly, it might still table substantial demands.

As its price for a peaceful, acceptable settlement of the crisis it could, for instance, insists on the Soviet Union being given a say in Middle Eastern affairs and guaranteed that even though this might not have been the case beforehand a satisfactory settlement of the local crisis would entail a general increase in Soviet influence.



Time for a laugh

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington share a joke during talks in Bonn. Main topic of the agenda was Afghanistan.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

German opinion likewise fails to overlook that the Afghan crisis could, at the beginning of the 80s, have the same overall political effect as the North Korean invasion of South Korea in the 50s.

The Korean War was, incidentally, one of the reasons why the decision to rearm Germany was taken.

Against the background of such a serious view of the situation Bonn has sought without delay to shoulder a few fresh Nato burdens, such as aid to Turkey.

It then wanted to channel the demands made of it in a direction of its own choice, but what Bonn now wants is to learn more clearly how the future looks in American eyes.

Where, in future in the West, must separate decisions be reached in the interest of one's own security? What leeway is left of the kind hitherto deemed appropriate for what has been called detente policy?

In other words, what areas remain in which negotiation remains as an option in arriving at greater security in ties with the Soviet Union?

Bonn is well aware that detente can no longer continue as hitherto, and that is precisely why Germany is so keenly interested in a long-term assessment of the situation that is not limited to Afghanistan.

The third element inherent in the call for an overall concept is, naturally enough, the desire to include as much as possible of one's own special interests in the common policy (a desire that leads to all previous moves being rated temporary).

One of these special interests is doubtless the continuation of German detente policy inasmuch as it has been a policy of treaty-making with the East bloc. But it would be a mistake to assume that this necessarily entails defending special interests against those espoused by the United States.

America is as little interested as Bonn in an additional crisis in Central Europe. No-one is considering a departure from the treaty policy so far pursued.

These treaties are a bridge that could be crossed if the current crisis were to be surmounted and the path to detente resumed where it had been left off.

In US eyes, Bonn's special interests are measured by a different yardstick. To what extent does the Bonn Government feel prevented by general treaty conside-

Continued on page 3

Looming election influences foreign affairs debate

Despite the Afghanistan crisis no-one will have expected the Bonn Opposition to endorse or lavish praise on the foreign policy pursued by Chancellor Schmidt's government.

There will, after all, be a general election in six months.

So it was all the more gratifying to note that in the Bundestag debate, Opposition leaders Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss clearly outlined the Christian Democrats' position.

They favour a large measure of support for the United States, entailing a hard line, a boycott and the armament to be able to stand up to Moscow.

This being so, Herr Kohl can logically accuse the Government of having done nothing yet. He studiously ignored higher defence spending and the EEC Foreign Ministers' Afghanistan peace bid, but this is surely within an Opposition leader's licence.

The ruling Social and Free Democrats certainly lack the clarity with which the Christian Democrats advocate a policy of strength.

Contrary to what Herr Kohl may feel, clarity is a must on both sides. The government has also called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, albeit not by means of moves that might have the opposite effect.

The policy of strength the Opposition endorse could well strengthen the hand of the brasshats in Moscow, heightening the crisis.

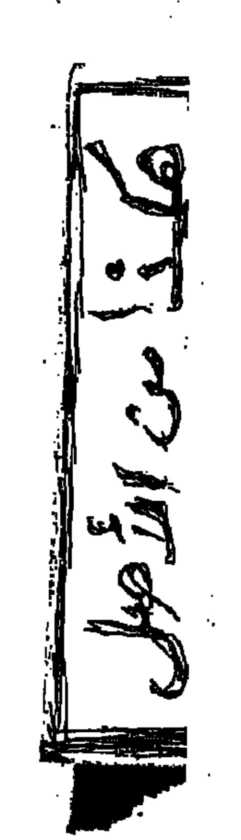
But it is equally clear that the government can only keep up its present policy for a limited period, if only on account of the Moscow Olympics.

In comparison with other aspects of the crisis the Olympics may be considered a risible problem, but on 24 May at the latest (the entry deadline) Bonn will have to reach a decision.

If Moscow does not look sharp an Olympic boycott will be resolved, thereby starting the ball rolling.

The Bonn Government's foreign policy could then grow desperately similar to the policy already outlined by the Opposition.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 February 1980)



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Illusory hopes about Tehran tribunal



The international tribunal that is shortly to pass judgment on the Shah and his ousted regime in Tehran gives rise to more questions than it answers.

The conclusion the five-man commission nominated by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim will reach is virtually a foregone one.

No more proof is needed that during the Shah's reign his notorious secret police, Savak, committed grave crimes ranging from wrongful imprisonment to torture and murder.

On this score the tribunal can do no more than officially affirm what international public opinion has long known to be a fact.

There is less clarity as to the conclusions the commission may reach on ties between the Shah's regime and the US government.

There seems to be no doubt that Savak and US intelligence services cooperated, which is not exactly a feather in the cap of a free and democratically governed country.

But it remains to be seen what disclosures the tribunal will make in detail, although some at least of the men now in power in Iran will be keen to prove *Ayatollah Khomeini's contention that the United States was partly to blame* for the oppression of the Iranian people.

In conversation it is at times suggested that the tribunal might mark a new departure in international affairs, it being the first time a UN-appointed body has set about probing crimes committed in a country.

Might this not give rise to hopes that in future dictators who persecute, torture and murder their domestic opponents must live in fear of a similar international prosecution?

Might they not decide to exercise greater care and restraint, taking the world closer to a state of affairs in which those in power stop short at resorting to extreme measures in domestic clashes?

Such hopes will soon be proved illusory. Sad to say, very few of the 150-odd UN member-countries can lay claim to be governed by the rule of law.

The overwhelming majority have no compunction in resorting to drastic measures to deal with domestic opponents, and they include most Arab and Islamic countries.

Iran itself has provided countless examples over the past year: not only by executing the Shah's executioners but also in the way it has dealt with a national minority such as the Kurds.

And there is ample material to document torture in other Arab countries that is still practised to this day.

Appointment of the tribunal by no means marks the beginning of a bid by the world at large to set matters right and put paid to bloodthirsty rulers.

The fundamental fact is that the commission would never have been set up had not a mob of young people, tolerated if not encouraged by the Iranian revolutionary council, violated elementary principles of international law in occupying the US embassy in Tehran and taking its inmates hostage.

This means that the body that is supposed to pass judgment owes its origins to an illegal act.

One can understand President Carter and, no doubt, the Bani-Sadr regime in Iran agreeing to the appointment of the *tribunal in their search for a solution to* the infamous hostage cliffhanger.

The Iranian government evidently needs an alibi to wield against the so-called students in the US embassy in justifying release of the hostages without bloodshed.

Yet the whole business remains most unsatisfactory nonetheless. It enables the terrorists in Tehran to achieve at least some of the objectives of their resort to violence.

What is more, their illegal action is given an aura of legality and approved post factum, as it were, by the sending of a UN commission to Tehran.

Hopes that the commission's findings might discourage other dictators are surely in vain, whereas the partial success the so-called students in Tehran look like achieving could well encourage terrorists elsewhere to follow suit.

Thus the tribunal is more likely to contribute towards insecurity in the world than to international security, so the price to be paid for the release of the hostages may prove a high one.

President Carter is prepared to pay it in order to bring the hostage drama to a happy end. When the hostages return home they will clearly be returning to a hero's welcome.

So it would be all the more important to feel sure that convening the commission will definitely bring about the release of the hostages. Yet this is by no means certain.

Assurances that the hostages would be released the moment the commission began its work have been withdrawn. Are we now to wait until the five-man tribunal has finished its deliberations?

No-one knows, just as no-one can say how long the commission is supposed to carry out its investigations. It could take days, weeks or even months.

But the longer the commission is in session the longer there will be a risk of bloodshed at the US embassy.

Besides, the tribunal's work could well reactivate anti-US sentiment in Iran unless the hostages are released without delay, and this risk is a serious one.

If, for instance, the commission proves that certain members of the US embassy staff cooperated with Savak, can the possibility of mob justice be entirely discounted?

True enough, the Bani-Sadr regime will try to prevent any such development, but the situation in Tehran is still too confused for one to be sure one way or the other.

What, for that matter, is to happen when the tribunal has completed its deliberations? Here too no-one is sure. All that can be said with certainty is that the Shah's regime will be condemned.

But will Iran's revolutionary council not then call for consequences to be taken? Will the call for extradition of the Shah not grow even louder than it has been in recent months?

Washington would then not only face the problem of having let down an erstwhile ally. Sacrificing the Shah would also generate deep-seated distrust among America's current friends, such as Saudi Arabia.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 February 1980)

Long history of hostage taking

DIE ZEIT

Hostages have served a wide range of purposes in the history of mankind and of crime. As recently as the Middle Ages they were little less than an international legal institution.

Noblemen from subject provinces were held hostage at the ruler's court and stood surety for good behaviour and prompt payment of tribute.

But hostage-taking by force as a means of political blackmail also has a long history. An indirect link could be established from Richard the Lionheart to the US hostages in Tehran.

Yet this is the first time kidnappers have made the release of their hostages subject to the establishment of an international tribunal based on an act of international injustice.

This unique development will set a precedent in the history of political blackmail.

So in the final analysis the Iranian revolutionary regime has already accomplished more than it could possibly have hoped to achieve by its original demand.

Initially, Tehran called on the United States to extradite the Shah, but this was clearly a demand the US government could not possibly meet.

The body appointed by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim cannot pass legal judgment on the Shah for the crimes of which he is accused, nor can it do much to ensure that its sentence is carried out.

Yet in having been set up in the first place (and in including well-known legal specialists, such as a judge at the European Human Rights Court) it has gained quasi international law status.

These are facts that preclude any possibility of comparing it with the Russell Tribunals and arguing that little or no damage can be done.

True, the entire proceedings will be a legal farce, regardless whether Ayatollah Khomeini releases the hostages immediately the tribunal is constituted or only once it has passed sentence, as pass sentence it must, on the deposed Shah.

Yet it is deeply humiliating for the civilised world to have to accept yardsticks of revolutionary illegality to save lives, an acceptance that could well set an example.

(Die Zeit, 22 February 1980)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke, Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution Manager: Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH: 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 —
Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

Spain comes out as a global voice

Spain's minor role in world politics is now about to change.

Ever since Afghanistan, Spain has come into the political limelight due to its traditionally friendly ties with the Arab world.

Since Spain's Prime Minister, Mario Suarez, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Yasser Arafat embraced in Madrid late last summer, Suarez has been considered the best informed Western head of government in Middle East matters.

His recent visit to Bonn took place at his own request. And what he discussed with the Chancellor concerned the Middle East situation and its global ramifications.

Suarez holds that the region east of Suez is imminently threatened by a new war.

The sole purpose of the visit to Damascus a few weeks ago by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko was to create a new front in the Middle East.

Since then, the Syrian occupiers in Lebanon have been trying to provoke new fighting and force Israel to strike a preemptive blow.

They are also responsible for the killing of Maja Gemayel, the 19-month old daughter of the commander-in-chief of the Lebanese forces.

This, the attacks on Christian villages in northern Lebanon and the kidnapping of a Christian MP and the Sunni Moslem Salim al Lauzi, a well-known publicist, have brought anti-Syrian anger among Christians and Moslems to the boiling point.

Israel has put its forces on alert, while the PLO has begun to recruit reservists and Syria is concentrating its forces in the Bekaa Valley.

Suarez is now worried about a project in which Bonn is also involved. The Emirates and Iraq are busy trying to bring about a regional pact as proposed by the ex-Shah five years ago.

They want to turn the Gulf area into a zone of peace without Western or Eastern support.

Saudi Arabia is to take part in this stabilisation attempt since nothing can be done in that region without Riyadh.

The Saudi royal family, which has close relations with Iraq's President Saddam Hussein at present, is still sitting on a fence.

Such a pact could strengthen Islamic solidarity — something that enjoyed priority even with the late King Feisal.

But can a regional military alliance that calls for non-alignment of its members save the Gulf from Moscow?

Crown Prince Fahd is more realistic. He calls for joint action with the West against Soviet expansion.

Dreams of neutrality are likely to remain just that in the Gulf region. Is Spain's action too late? *Jürgen Liminski*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 29 February 1980)

■ BALANCE OF POWER

Hopes fade for Russian about-turn in Afghanistan

The Russians have poked their noses into a wasps' nest in Afghanistan. They have completely misconstrued the situation.

Fighting in Kabul and the interior testifies to unyielding resistance to the Kremlin-imposed Karmal regime.

Two months after the Soviet invasion the Afghan Government has had to impose martial law, and the ominous state of affairs in the country could well lead to further escalation.

Moscow might be tempted to try and offset its miscalculation in Afghanistan by massive reinforcement of its expeditionary force.

No-one doubts for a moment that the Kremlin miscalculated the devastating effect of the invasion in the West, in the Islamic countries and in most of the Third World.

The fiasco in Kabul itself would now seem to bear out to the full the surmise that the Soviet Union triggered the Afghanistan crisis without drawing up a thorough crisis timetable in advance.

The United States and Western European governments may insist on a Soviet withdrawal but the Soviet Union could well step up its commitment instead.

Yet there can be no question of defusing the conflict without a gradual, although not necessarily immediate, cutback in military presence in Afghanistan.

At the beginning of January the UN General Assembly called for unconditional and immediate troop withdrawal, political independence and non-aligned status for the country.

This demand was totally ineffective, so foreign ministers of the nine EEC countries sought to built a bridge by not insisting on an unconditional withdrawal of invading forces.

Instead they advocated a neutral Afghanistan with international guarantees to ensure it was cordoned off from superpower rivalry.

The aim of this bid was to make troop withdrawals appear acceptable from the Kremlin's viewpoint.

Mr Brezhnev replied, however, that he was only prepared to withdraw Soviet forces providing "all forms of external intervention directed against the government and people of Afghanistan are fully eliminated."

The United States, he suggested, should undertake guarantees to this effect together with Afghanistan's neighbours.

But would this amount to more than a non-committal declaration of intent in exchange for guarantees? If not, it would not amount to much.

Chancellor Schmidt initially said, in an off-the-cuff judgement in Bonn, that the beginning of a rethink was in evidence in Moscow. Foreign Minister Genscher spoke, in a similar note of optimism, of light at the end of the tunnel.

But this initial optimism has quickly subsided. On closer scrutiny Mr Brezhnev's protestations turned out to be a desire to gain international blessing for his claim that Afghanistan was by right a Soviet colony.

He has certainly not corrected, not even in the most indirect and roundabout fashion, the brusque rejection of the Western proposal by the Soviet press.

America and Europe may well, of course, be wondering by this stage whether they really want to facilitate a gradual Soviet disengagement in Afghanistan (and if so, how).

Do they at least want to lend a hand in ensuring that the Russians do not land themselves even deeper in the quagmire? There are signs that they do, but clear ideas are as yet lacking.

There is not even a generally valid definition of what constitutes a withdrawal. Restoration of the status quo as it was before 27 December? Or the beginning of a reorientation of Afghanistan and maybe the entire Middle East?

After all, even before the invasion Afghanistan was not really a non-aligned country. Its communist regime laid claim to this status, as did Cuba's, but with no serious pretensions.

Nearly 6,000 Soviet military advisers were stationed in Afghanistan, and any demand aimed at reversing the status quo since the April 1978 communist coup is sure to make Soviet readiness to withdraw either more difficult or totally impossible.

So the Rome conference of EEC Foreign Ministers was sufficiently understanding not to make do with a simple withdrawal demand; it called instead for neutral, non-aligned status for Afghanistan.

This idea may be unsatisfactory in many respects, but it does at least combine two important considerations.

First is the acceptance of Russia's security police desire to ensure that its southern flank is relieved of the burden of imponderable risks.

The second is that non-aligned status for Afghanistan would offset the alarming strategic advantage Moscow has gained in the Middle East by the invasion.

The West's major worry since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has been the change in colour on the geopolitical map.

Moscow has made sure of an opportunity of swift access to the Persian Gulf, the world's major oil area. There they could strike a deadly blow at the Western industrialised countries' oil lifeline. The EEC Foreign Ministers' offer would benefit both sides, being based on the only suitable principle, that of give and take.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France gave the scheme his blessing on the same day President Carter replied to Tito suggesting a US guarantee of Afghan neutrality, after troop withdrawals, of course.

But all these offers implicitly assume the Russians primarily or even exclusively invaded Afghanistan for security reasons.

This analysis is incomplete. The Russians have completely changed the balance of power politics in the Middle East by virtue of their invasion.

In initial indignation this power displacement was even interpreted as the real objective of intervention, whereas now it is more generally regarded as a subject for individual conjecture.

Did the advance towards the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf enjoy priority, or was it merely an additional advantage (albeit one of inestimable value)? The Kremlin would show which the moment it showed willing to negotiate.

But if it nipped any bid to negotiate in the bud there could no longer by any doubt there had been a fundamental change in Soviet strategy.

The conflict would then further intensify. Experience gained in settling the autumn 1962 Cuban crisis incidentally includes a number of lessons to be learnt in the present context.

President Kennedy made it easier for Mr Khrushchev to climb down once the Soviet leader had realised he had seriously underrated US determination to risk nuclear confrontation.

He had no option but to resort to attempted blackmail. Then, however, he helped the Soviet Union not to lose face.

Yet it seems to have been forgotten that President Kennedy made a secret deal with the Soviet Union, agreeing as a counter-concession to the Soviet withdrawal to cutback the number of medium-range US missiles in Britain, Turkey and North Italy.

So the Cuban crisis is of no more than limited use for purposes of comparison. Unlike Khrushchev, Mr Brezhnev does not face the dramatic alternative of nuclear holocaust or withdrawal.

A negotiated Afghanistan package deal would be likely to relate to Middle East regional problems only. Their settlement would have to preclude the possibility of unilateral advantage and be aimed solely at establishing a stable order.

This, in its turn, would preclude the possibility of compensation for a Soviet withdrawal along Cuban crisis lines.

There must be no question of Nato going back on its December 1979 decision to modernise its nuclear arsenal; the problems of medium-range missiles in Europe must be dealt with at arms limitation talks.

Things have started moving to a certain extent since the EEC Foreign Ministers' Rome peace bid. President Carter's policy of a possible punitive expedition has, for instance, been shelved.

The ultimatum has shown itself to be blunt and inadequate as a weapon, but the shape further bids to end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan may take remains to be seen.

It will have been discussed by President Carter and Chancellor Schmidt in Washington as the hub of future policy towards the Soviet Union, but only an extract from the whole gamut of problems.

There is a widespread demand in America for a fresh policy of containment to counteract Soviet advances in the Third World. Military strength is intended to form the backbone of this policy.

Neither the Europeans nor the Americans (not even the Russians, for that matter) have forgotten, over the past few weeks, to emphasise that they continue to be interested in arms limitation talks.

Negotiations already in progress have not yet been interrupted, but a clear priority of defence policy over disarmament talks is taking shape in Washington.

This leaves Herr Schmidt in a tough spot. He must undertake to step up Bonn's *defence commitments yet* at the same time point out the substantial distinction between a world power and a medium-grade European power in the detente context and outline what contribution Bonn is prepared to make towards the crisis management he advocates.

A solution to the Afghanistan conflict is no more than a first step, albeit the most difficult. The second will be to devise a policy for the 80s that does more than keep the Western alliance alive and kickling.

It must also limit the risk of East-West clashes in the Third World (and the alarming repercussions they might well have in Europe).

But this is still a distant prospect for both America and Europe.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 29 February 1980)

Continued from page 1

Long-term plan

rations from participating in joint Western crisis-containment bids even though such moves might have nothing whatever to do with the treaties?

Also, how far might Bonn feel prevented by consideration for France and for intra-European balance from playing a joint role in crisis-containment?

Chancellor Schmidt has told the Bundestag he was satisfied that in consultations so far with President Carter agreement had been reached on the need for a division of labour in moves the allies might take.

In other words, their moves need not in every case be identical, but at the same time even greater importance must be attached to coordination and actual understanding on policies to be adopted.

This was indispensable to ensure that different behaviour did not lead to displeasure and to a lasting loss of confidence.

It would indeed be ironic if the Afghanistan crisis, having been brought on by the Soviet Union, were to lead to a disturbance in alliance ties between Europe and America.

The Soviet Union is sparing no efforts to foster just such a lasting disturbance and increase existing differences of opinion on how to cope with the crisis.

Moscow has, for instance, advised Europe to make a distinction between its interests and those of the United States in the Gulf, making common cause with the Soviet Union instead.

It has suggested holding a European energy conference with this end in view. A conference of this kind was originally intended as a follow-up conference to Helsinki.

Bonn in particular is given to understand that detente is only possible provided it frees itself from Washington's apron strings.

Foreign Minister Genscher has already rejected, in a speech to the Bundestag, any suggestion of an alternative between detente or alliance or between detente and transatlantic cooperation.

He was right to point out that the Soviet Union is more likely to be brought round to a realistic assessment of the situation the sooner it sees that it cannot hope for Europe to make any such mistake.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 March 1980)

HOME AFFAIRS

Poll campaign slow to gain momentum

The nature of this year's general election was determined in the public mind when the CDU's Franz Josef Strauss was chosen to stand against Helmut Schmidt for the Chancellorship.

Herr Strauss' elevation meant that the campaign would be tough and marked by confrontations and clashes, both personal and on policies, and that there would be mutual accusations and insults.

But it isn't working out quite like that. There has been a babel of voices from all sides.

There are shrill voices in the background rallying support for something or someone.

And in the Bundestag there is a dutiful clamouring for the benefit of the Press; there has been self-praise on one side and criticism on the other.

But no fronts have emerged to show differences on key issues, or at least have drawn a clear line between friend and foe.

In short, the whole spectacle so far can hardly be called an election campaign.

And yet the Bonn Government provides ample areas for attack.

The best one can say for its foreign policy is that it is non-existent.

Genscher and Brandt, Bahr and Schmidt each take their own stand. In a way that has become typical for Germany's post-war policy, the accent is either on stepped up detente or intensified defence.

The emphasis shifts from friendship with France to friendship with America, from German participation in all sorts of boycotts against the Soviet aggression warnings against hasty reactions.

Criticism of America is softened by our dependence on that country and criticism of Russia by fear — a spectacle that would be termed pitiful if there were something to contrast it against.

The key issues in domestic affairs are the social security pensions, government debt and taxes. The other major issues in the dispute have been shoved aside.

The government parties have presented a pensions plan with a dubious financing scheme, while the opposition has come up with something pretty similar.

Schmidt's cabinet wants to reduce taxes and so does the Opposition. But at the same time they also want to combat state debt — and there, too, the opponents agree.

Naturally, they fight over details, but this does not go beyond the normal tug-of-war between Government and Opposition, nor does it have any effect on the voters.

Herr Strauss hit the nail on the head when he called out to the Chancellor that he would never have been able to pursue his policies without the conservatives.

Franz Josef Strauss
(Photo: Sven Simon)

But if this is so, the Government cannot have done such a bad job. So the question is: why should Strauss formally take over the helm from Schmidt, especially in view of the fact that quite a few conservatives consider Schmidt one of their own.

Strauss is headed for a personal plebiscite without offering an alternative platform.

But how he intends to win this plebiscite is either a well guarded secret or he just hopes that the electorate will make the Greens (environmentalists) strong enough and the FDP weak enough so that victory will go to the candidate who passes himself off as the man who will continue Schmidt's policy in an improved fashion and not as the opponent of this policy.

There is no sign of an original concept nor of a shadow cabinet, which should long ago have been formed. After all, the conservatives, if they join forces, can any time match the Government in matters of suitable personnel.

But Strauss, who has weathered his scandals and who cannot be defeated any more by disclosures, has not presented himself as a fighting candidate telling the people clearly what his plans are and with whom he wants to realise them.

Instead, he presents himself as the man who is legitimised ny his political experience and acumen to wait for the nation to draft him.

Strauss is acting statesmanlike, i.e. cautiously. He does not expose himself although he is in an exposed position.

He makes himself unassailable by not assailing the Government where it offers soft spots but uses these soft spots as a protective cloak for himself.

He, too, wants to stay on good terms with the East; and he, too, does not want to choose between France and America and between boycott of the Olympics and participation in Moscow.

The Government is for a division of labour in Nato and so is Strauss. Schmidt is waiting for a reply from Moscow and Strauss for an invitation.

The strong man Strauss, as most of his friends and enemies see him, needs a major crisis to give him legitimacy. But such a crisis — like that which once propelled Churchill or de Gaulle into power — is not in sight, or at least we are told that it is not.

Government and opposition are doing everything they can to dampen the fear of a crisis.

If it were to come nevertheless it would make the voters rally around the Government and not around the saviour who both criticises and supports the Government.

Johannes Gross

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 February 1980)

Unexpected candidate for Bundestag

He was voted in as secretary-general of the FDP because of a belief he would not make a bid for a Bundestag seat. But now Günter Verheugen has changed his mind — and is in trouble.

His constituency would be in North Rhine-Westphalia where the FDP field is more crowded than in any other Land.

After the 1976 election when the FDP gained 7.9 per cent of the votes in that *Land* it was awarded 12 positions on the ticket — all of which are again as allotted.

Verheugen's explanation for wanting a Bundestag mandate is simple: "A party policy is implemented in Parliament. And when a party has a political secretary-general — and we have exactly that — he should be given an opportunity to have a seat."

But only a year ago, he spoke differently. North Rhine-Westphalia's FDP officials point out that he would never have been elected as secretary-general had he said that before.

Even so, he was voted in with 201 out of 373 votes — an only just tolerable result.

In the 16 months he has been in office, party officials admit, he has gained in prestige. But he only occasionally attended sessions of the FDP parliamentarians and virtually never had anything to say.

This is to change if he gets into Parliament. But he can play no special role independent of his party's parliamentary body or of government views. Though theoretically this should be possible, it is out of the question in practical terms, a party spokesman points out.

The prevailing view among FDP functionaries is that Verheugen should concentrate in his job at headquarters.

The die will be cast on 31 May when the final ticket has been prepared. The first three places are a foregone conclusion: Genscher, Lambsdorff and Baum.

After them there are three vacant places. In 1976 they were occupied by Liselotte Funcke (now in *Land* politics), the deceased Alfred Ollesch and ex-Interior Minister Werner Maihofer, who has decided not to stand for re-election.

As soon as Maihofer let it be known that he would not seek a seat, Verheugen announced his candidacy in the Minden-Lübbecke constituency, an FDP stronghold.

He could not stand in Brühl where he lives because that city is Lambsdorff's constituency.

MPs Jürgen Möllemann, Hans Gattermann, Hans Laermann, Dieter Julius Cronenberg, Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, Klaus Gärtner, Rudolf Mercker and Ekkehardt Schleifenbaum have already decided to stand in this sequence, taking places four to 11 on the ticket.

Verheugen will thus have to fight for fourth place because anything beyond that would be embarrassing for him and the party.

But his problem is that he cannot turn down 12th place because this would be tantamount to an admission by the secretary-general that he expects his party to be less successful than in 1976.

An FDP MP has said: "Hans-Dietrich Genscher will have to put it on the line." But so far he has shown little inclination to do so.

Ulrich

(Die Welt, 27 February)

THE TRADE UNIONS

Reforms in education system a major issue, says federation chief

Education policies must be taken out of ideological and party disputes, says the chairman of the German trade union federation (DGB), Heinz Oskar Vetter.

If this is not done, he says, ultimately it is the children who will suffer.

"I am anxious for school and educational reforms to drift into less troubles waters because it is in this field that the greatest damage can be caused."

The key issue for Herr Vetter is equal opportunity for all, although he does not deny the success of traditional education in providing our leadership. But he also holds that it is certain that even after educational reforms "we shall always have the leadership we need."

For the union boss, lockouts have been part of the permanent dispute between labour and management. But now they have become more acute as a result of the action at the Federal Labour Court.

What worries him is that, in the public discussion on lockouts, the unions have been equated with enemies of the Constitution as was the case in connection with the dispute over codetermination (labour participation in management).

Yet after World War II the trade unions played a major part in drafting our new Constitution.

Another thing that concerns the union boss is that management's attitude towards the unions has become more critical again.

He says: "We thought that this had been overcome after the last round of top level talks. But relations have become frosty once more."

In his interview in the privacy of a hotel's conference room, removed from the daily routine and the insistent shrilling of telephones and shielded from the public, Vetter is more introspective and worried than militant.

He speaks of personal experience in his many years of union work, and questions make him go into long reflections on the principles of union policy and the union's place in state and society.

Asked whether a new decade and a new DGB Programme of Principles also marked a new era of union policy, the chairman talks about continuity and logical development.

He goes way back into the history of the union movement, pointing to August Bebel who, at the turn of the century, lamented: "I don't understand why the unions are so disunited."

Then he points out that it was this labour disunity that played a role in the foundering of the Weimar Republic.

Comments Vetter: "It is this that united us in 1945 and made us form our Trade Union Federation. It is also this that dominated our Programme of Principles at that time. This was reviewed in 1963; and now we are reviewing it again."

The draft of the Programme will be discussed within the individual unions right down to the grass roots within the next few months and is then to be passed next year by a special DGB congress.

The chairman points out that the Programme encompasses everything concerning man in his lifespan. This includes not only his working life and the conditions of work but also education, job training, cultural policy and problems of meaningful leisure.



Herr Vetter attributes priority to the basic rights of the individual as outlined in the social passages of the Constitution. This includes, among other things, title to work.

Another important aspect is the humanisation of work: "Tragically, when we began to humanise the drudgery we were hit by massive unemployment. We have to start anew mow."

And then there is codetermination. For Vetter this will remain a major issue in the 80s.

"We must at last do away with the schizophrenia in which workers are regarded as mature citizens where politics are concerned but remain the recipients of orders at work."

Herr Vetter is cautious in his formulations as if he wanted to avoid rubbing salt into healing wounds. Time and again he stops to think, intensively occupied with his pipe.

So far as codetermination is concerned, he says, we must move towards each other. If both sides act according to the spirit of the law as suggested by the Constitutional Court in its ruling, the inadequacies of the law will be overcome.

Herr Vetter suggests that the Codetermination Act does not necessarily have to be amended. After all, it can be greatly improved through collective bargaining: "If the political parties don't manage to cope with it, then we must do so by private treaty."

While the assassinated Hanns-Martin Schleyer was still president of the Employers' Association, Herr Vetter reminisces, there were many more contacts than became publicly known — contacts in which the question as to what can be done by private treaty played a major role and was discussed sensibly.

The union leader still calls on the parties to collective bargaining to make use of their possibilities for the good of society and the economy.

Asked whether this meant that we should turn away from the state, Herr Vetter says: "I wouldn't say so; but we left too many tasks to the state in the past. Now labour and management can unburden the state of certain functions and settle issues among themselves."

Reverting to codetermination, Herr Vetter says that it plays a major role in the Programme of Principles and that there is no limit to improvements.

What he means is codetermination on various levels and the formation of business and social councils on a federal and *Länder* basis. This could be spearheaded by the existing Structural Committees in the *Länder*.

Asked whether these councils would have priority in the 80s, Herr Vetter hesitates before answering: "Yes; but first we must solve the problems of unemployment and technological development."

These two issues are linked in his view. "Today, we must try to cope with structural unemployment because tomorrow we sill be faced with technological unemployment."

He says 60 per cent of jobs will be affected by electronics and microprocessors and will have to be restructured. Yet the new technology is not only labour but also capital saving and thus inevitable.

"It's worth a yeoman's effort to ponder together with the employers how to have technological progress that is not detrimental to labour."

Here, too, Herr Vetter sees the solution in bargaining between labour and management rather than in government initiatives. But he admits: "Many of us are afraid of this."

A beginning has already been made in the form of the small circle technology dialogue at the Bonn Research Ministry.

But this is not enough for the DGB chairman.

"The development is upon us and we must act rather than react if we are to shape society as we feel it should be shaped," he says.

When Vetter says "we" he does not mean the unions alone but all groups that are involved in this process.

If, in the next five years, we manage to cope with the technological change and the attendant danger of more unemployment, if we manage to create additional jobs for the people who will crowd the labour market, Vetter's biggest worry would be over.

"I'm more worried about the first five years of this decade than about the second."

Innovations, he hopes, will make our economy flourish even if the working population diminishes and labour becomes in short supply.

Vetter can only start these developments. But he cannot complete them because he will not be standing for the DGB chairmanship again.

The leadership of other individual unions is also due for replacement. The question is: will the new generation continue on the charted course?

The union leader gazes out of the

Continued on page 6

Shorter hours remain top target

The German Trade Union Federation (DGB) has by no means abandoned its demand for a 10 per cent cut in the weekly working time.

On the contrary, this ranks at the top of the list of demands, DGB chairman Heinz Oskar Vetter told the press in Bonn.

He intimated that he did not envisage a complete adjustment of the hourly wages and did not intend to demand shorter working hours in the present difficult situation.

Herr Vetter, who is also a member of the European Parliament, said he was disappointed with the Bonn government and the various European authorities.

The debate in Europe on shorter working hours has become "a debacle of the first order", Herr Vetter said, blaming primarily Bonn.

If Bonn had not so adamantly opposed this, the European authorities and the various employers' associations would also have been less unyielding, said Vetter.

He stressed that he viewed this issue as a long-term and costly process — a cost which labour and management will have to share.

"Whenever I found that in the course of collective bargaining I could have obtained 8 per cent more wages I took 6 per cent and used the other 2 per cent to shorten the working time", said Herr Vetter.

What he did not say was that several individual unions of the DGB oppose this attitude.

He said he was worried about economic development in the Western industrial countries. There are six million jobless in the EEC and the number of unemployed in the OECD group will rise from 16 million now to 20 million by year's end, he said.

The inflation rate in the Community, he went on, stood at 10 per cent, and the oil price was an additional element of danger. He stressed that the situation was much more serious than many believed.

"It is simply unrealistic to expect that Germany can remain an island of relative stability while the world around us slithers deeper and deeper into chaos.

He concluded that the efforts of the European Trade Union Federation in combating unemployment and inflation must be stepped up and that the union movement should take a clearer stand vis-a-vis the EEC and the national governments.

Second in priority after shorter working hours was the demand for more humane and provident safeguards against technology.

Herr Vetter told the press that the European unions expected a concrete answer from the governments concerning their relationships with the Third and Fourth World.

The forthcoming summit conferences could be used to achieve a better coordination.

The union boss mentioned the sessions of the Council of Europe and the EEC summit in Venice this June. So far, he said, all such conferences have been "colourless."

Herr Vetter also said he was disappointed about EEC efforts to bring about a uniform companies legislation.

The controversial issues in this respect — even within the union camp — Herr Vetter said, were the executive bodies of corporations and codetermination by the unions. He termed the guidelines put forward in this connection unacceptable.

Herr Vetter told the journalists that European bodies were full of praise for the German codetermination system, but that he was not bold enough to believe that the same model could, through a back door, become part of EEC company legislation.

"There are trade unions", he said, "as for instance in Italy, which have a militant tradition and are not interested in codetermination."

The DGB, he said, wanted to cooperate on this issue with all parties in the European Parliament.

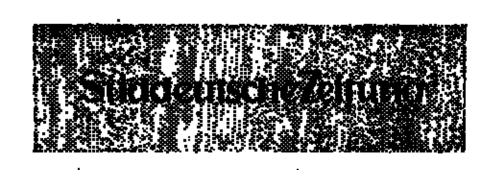
He had already had initial talks with the Conservative element in the Europarliament.

Peter Gillies

(Die Welt, 28 February 1980)

■ WEALTH

Translation delays hinder Brandt report scrutiny



Discussion in Germany on the final report of the Brandt Commission is being hampered because the German-language version is still being prepared.

The report, a 250-page document compiled by the 18 commission members who come from the five continents, was given in English to the United Nations Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim, and to World Bank president Robert McNamara.

McNamara instigated the idea for the Commission, whose official name is the Independent Commission on Development Problems.

Because of the delay in the German version, discussion on the vital search for a way of pulling the bogged-down North-South dialogue out of the mire has, of necessity, been based on passages taken out of context.

This automatically means that the critical analysis of the document is and will be haphazard. Yet the report was meant to induce politically minded people in the industrial and developing countries calmly to ponder the central social problem of the past few decades.

Of course, the Brandt Commission realised from the very beginning that it would not earn itself acceptance by all parties concerned — especially in view of *the clash of interests* and the many clichés that dominate the North-South dialogue.

But the members of the Commission did hope that the sagging issue would be revived through the suggestions made in the report. This can hardly be achieved with the meagre excerpts that have become known so far.

Naturally, there was no need for a Brandt Commission only to hear for the umpteenth time that public sector development aid should be doubled.

The looming disaster cannot be halted without enormously increased efforts. Military means alone cannot stop the chaos and confrontation due to famine.

But lack of money is not the only problem.

The much-cited Marshall Plan and the capital it pumped into ravaged post-war Europe benefited a highly developed continent that used it to help itself.

But in underdeveloped regions it is frequently hard to convert capital into development and prevent it being wasted by corruption or the import of unnecessary goods.

Yet international financiers frequently try desperately to find realisable development projects.

Such key words as "New World Development Fund" or "World Tax" have triggered an alarm in the Western world because the industrialised nations see only the spectre of a useless bloating of the world bureaucracy that would waste what the few productive economies of our world have to throw into the pot.

These few examples show that the discussion of the report, restricted as it is to a few key passages, takes us back to the old vicious circle as the North-South conflict grows more and more explosive.

Germany, which has had a fixation on the East-West conflict for a long time, would especially do well to study the Brandt Report thoroughly.

Much that comes to mind as objectionable has obviously long been known by the political experts from small and large industrialised countries, rich and poor developing countries, the oil-producing and the oil-dependent nations. The report answers many open questions.

The thought impulses of the Commission on the following issues are worth being studied carefully: inclusion of the industrialised East in the North-South dialogue; a link between the industrialised world's interests in the face of the oil crisis with the desire of the oil-producing countries to acquire post-oil-era technology; redefinition of "security" and the linking of development and armament problems; abolishment of such old battle slogans as "colonialism" by breaking them down into their objective and timeless elements.

The interplay and meshing shown in the report are vital for the crucial problem of converting this study into political realities. The same applies to the balanced approach and reasons the report gives for some old-established facts and aims.

In fact, this is even more important than the solution models offered by the Brandt Commission.

It would be too hasty to conclude that the report is a morally valuable document that is useless in today's international situation.

Iran and Afghanistan especially have made it clear in the past few months that development conflicts in the Third World can no longer be viewed from our secure vantage point of affluence because the superpowers are much quicker now to be drawn into seemingly localised social distribution struggles.

Hannes Burger

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 February 1980)

Trade unions

Continued from page 5

window as if this could open a future vista. He chooses his words even more carefully, saying: "Periods of transition are not always calm. Every generation has its own responsibility and must shape its own era."

What matters, says Herr Vetter, is to secure the democratic structure of the trade unions. "Elections may not always bring top men to top posts. But it is important for the organisation that a vote should take place and that it regenerates itself from its own ranks."

Much remains unsaid. Asked whether he would like to issue a warning against the danger of bureaucratisation, Herr Vetter evades the issue by resorting to allegory. He speaks of the tree that must be pruned in order to develop its full strength. He also speaks of "a wee bit of cultural revolution."

Asked whether the Programme of Principles about to be passed was his legacy for the new generation, Herr Vetter answers: "It is tempting to use such a big word, but it wouldn't be true. The new Programme of Principles is the expression of a permanent search for the right objectives.

"This Programme already contains as a seedling the next one because many issues have been dealt with only in outline."

Heinz Michaels

(Die Zeit, 29 February 1980)

Raw materials deal with Australia urged

Co-operation between West Germany and Australia should be stepped up, agreed delegates to a meeting between representatives of the two countries.

Germany is interested in securing raw materials supplies and Australia wants equity capital and technology to develop its huge raw materials resources, particularly its mineral-processing industry.

The meeting, attended by 90 delegates, met near Melbourne last month.

In an interview with *Handelsblatt*, Dr Gerhard Abel, a German government official, summed up the meeting (it was organised by the Australian-German Association, Aga for short): "Australia is enormously interesting to us as a provider of raw materials.

"We Germans have evidently not quite realised that we are hibernating and in danger of missing the boat at a moment that is decisive for Australia.

"The German business community must be made aware of this and must become more active in that country."

At the conference itself, Dr Abel said: "If we are to have a stable Western world, we need Australia's help."

In addressing the congress, Dick Hamer, premier of the State of Victoria, made no bones about the fact that "if the capital does not come from Germany it will certainly come from Japan, America and Britain, who are already investing in Australian energy and metals development projects."

And Dr Abel said: "They won't be running after us. We must hurry up with our investment plans for Australia before the Japanese become so well established there as to limit our own possibilities.

Australian representatives made it clear that what they wanted was co-operation in the raw materials sector based on investment, long-term sales contracts and participation in the on-site processing of minerals as is already practised by the Japanese.

Casimir Prince Wittgenstein, chairman of *Metallgesellschaft AG*, Frankfurt, conceded in his address that the German business community now realised that it has long underestimated the potential of the South Pacific region.

"Australia's future is much rosier than that of Europe."

But while the Germans considered conditions for a cooperation in the raw materials sector, including the processing of minerals, as favourable, it was generally held that Australia is only to a limited extent interesting for certain branches of industry — if for no other reason because of its relatively small domestic market.

(Handelsblatt, 20 February 1980)

New policy on Third World investment

For the first time in its history, government-owned *Deutsche ... twicklungsgesellschaft* (DEG), Co... now wants to participate on a large ... in the raw materials investment ... German industry in the Third World.

Professor Karl-Heinz Sohn, head ... this organisation that implem... Bonn's development programme, ... announced that two major projects ... planned, one for the exploitation ... copper. They will probably be appr... before year's end.

The other projects (Professor So... gave no details because the negotia... were still in progress) are to imp... Germany's supply of iron ore, uran... and bauxite.

This new activity of the DEG, Pro... sor Sohn said, was in keeping with ... vernment instructions of 1976 to the ... fect that DEG should participate ... measures to secure Germany's raw ma... rials supplies.

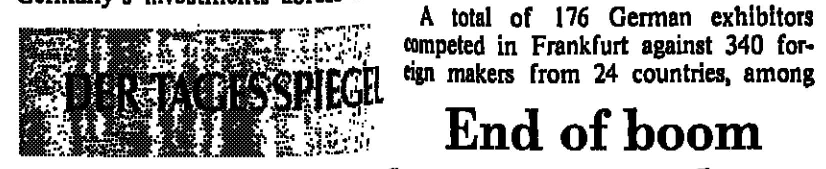
Due to the size of these projects ... was already predictable, Professor So... said, that the DEG would reach ... limits of its financial potential in a f... years. He spoke of hundreds of millio...

He also expressed great interest in ... panding the DEG's activities to incl... China.

As in the case of Yugoslavia, ... DEG is prepared to participate in p... vate investments. But this would p... suppose Peking being more precise ... its provisions governing joint ventures.

Professor Sohn voiced his concern ... over the diminishing interest of medium ... sized companies in commercial ... volvement in the Third World.

Unlike 1976, when 38 per cent ... Germany's investments abroad went ...



the developing world, the figure in 197... was 20 per cent and is likely to dr... further.

He blamed this on poor investm... conditions in most Third World co... tries.

The willingness of German indus... to invest in the developing world ... greatly diminished — not only due ... the events in Iran and Afghanistan ... also because of the disastrous politi... and economic conditions and admi... trative obstacles in many Third Wo... countries.

This applies particularly to medi... sized companies that are reluctant ... invest their limited capital in develop... countries.

Although the prime function of ... DEG is to promote investment by ... dium sized firms, this has led to ... creased cooperation with major com... nies.

Professor Sohn emphatically de... that the DEG would step up its op... tions in such crisis countries as Tu... and Pakistan.

Turkey, he said, was on the verge ... bankruptcy and the political and e... nomic conditions in Pakistan were ... as to make it irresponsible to enco... German business to invest there.

He held that it should be primarily ... to public sector development aid to ... come involved in these strategically ... portant areas.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 22 February ...)

■ BUSINESS

Stiff competition for the sound of music

German manufacturers of musical instruments face heavy foreign competition, mainly from Japan and America.

Domestic sales overall rose last year by DM86m to DM512m. Sales of imported instruments accounted for DM48m of the increase, taking total sales of imports to DM301m.

German sales rose by DM38m to DM211m.

But the local maufacturers are optimistic, and were satisfied with the International Music Show in Frankfurt last month where 176 German manufacturers exhibited their products side by side with 340 foreign makers.

President of the German manufacturers association, Horst Link, said the show had shown that Germans were on the way to putting their products at the top of the quality list.

According to the manager of the show, the Frankfurt event has become the most important in the world, providing this line of business with an opportunity to show its innovations — a line of business that is generally booming.

Though German makers don't want to be the first to increase prices, they have already announced that wages and materials costs necessitate an increase of five to eight per cent.

At first glance, the optimism of German manufacturers might appear surprising in the face of the seemingly overwhelming competition, especially the Japanese and Americans.

A total of 176 German exhibitors competed in Frankfurt against 340 foreign makers from 24 countries, among

Frankfurter Neue Presse

them 112 from Britain, 70 from Italy and 61 from the United States.

This powerful foreign competition is shown by the great number of all types of instruments exhibited.

The largest group of exhibitors are those showing pianos, cembali and organs where 35 German firms compete against 151 foreign makers.

The position is similar in the percussion, wind and the today so important electronics sectors. And in the field of accordions, one German maker has to compete against nine foreigners.

German manufacturers still consider exports more important than domestic sales. The former amounted to DM76m — an improvement on the previous year of only four per cent due to the depreciation of the dollar and the yen.

Major Japanese and American companies consider the medium sized German makers — 98 employing 8,300 — as their fiercest competitors. They are determined to step up exports of their high quality instruments to the United States and Japan where "Made in Germany" still stands for quality.

The main handicaps of the Germans are their long delivery times — up to one year — and the shortage of skilled labour.

Optimism in this line of business is based on the generally growing leisure market where the instrument makers are determined to hold their own against manufacturers of sporting equipment and travel agents.

A Cologne study has it that the German leisure market will show a 50 per cent growth rate by 1985, when it will reach sales of DM200bn a year; and 65 per cent of this will benefit the retail trade, including that with musical instruments.

Retail sales in this field amounted to DM800m last year, and the exhibitors at the Frankfurt show pin their hopes on orders by the retailers.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 February 1980)

Drummer Jack De Johnette entertains visitors to the International Music Show in Frankfurt. (Photo: dpa)

End of boom in record industry

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The good days for the phonograph record industry are over and gone are the days when every year brought new sales records.

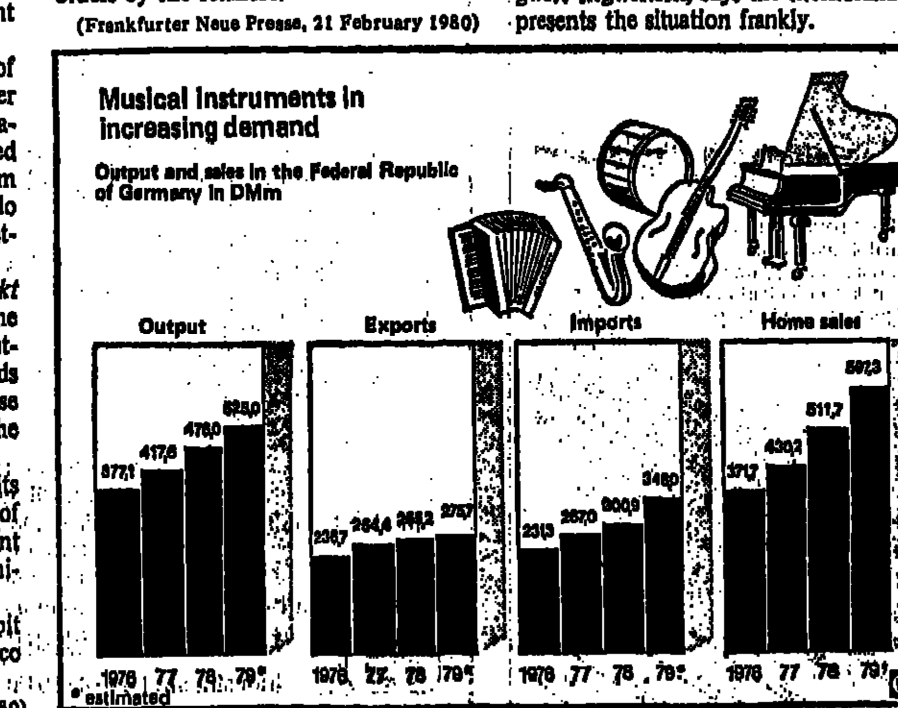
Siegfried E. Loch, a representative of the industry's association, put his finger on a sore point when he told his colleagues that the industry had been lulled into a feeling of security by the boom and that the setback now might do some good by shaking it out of its lethargy.

The trade magazine *Der Musikmarkt* saw the situation in pretty much the same light recently when it wrote: "Cutting back on the flood of new records would be good for all concerned because it would separate the wheat from the chaff."

Though the industry still pins its hopes on the "new wave", the sound of the 80s is slow in coming. The present musical range is extremely wide, dominated by rock in all its forms.

For the consumer, this means a bit more variety after years of the disco ... ew.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 February 1980)



The portable radio: no more made in Germany

Portable radios and cassette recorders are no longer manufactured in Germany, according to the manufacturers themselves.

Only a few car radios and radio recorders are still made here.

Most of the equipment comes from the Far East. So do all small black and white TV sets.

The only reason the manufacturers give is that local concerns cannot compete with the high degree of mechanisation and lower wages in the Far Eastern countries.

This admission commes in a memorandum by the association of the electronic entertainunment branch of the industry, representing 26 companies.

The memorandum says: "Competitiveness, the economic future and innovativeness as well as jobs in communications and entertainment electronics in this country are actuely threatened by a number of negative factors with which a branch of business can hardly cope on its own."

It was sent to the EEC authorities in Brussels, the Bundestag, the Bonn government, business associations and trade unions in the hopes of a positive response.

Speaker for the manufacturers, Ingwert Ingwertsen, says the memorandum presents the situation frankly.

What the memorandum does not mention is that German makers have always concentrated on the large TV sets which still account for 40 per cent of their sales.

When the PAL colour TV licences expire in the mid-80s German industry expects a new Japanese offensive. But manufacturers here have themselves to blame because they failed to adjust their production facilities to diminishing demand.

The hi-fi industry also made its mistakes. The new video market is dominated by the Japanese, who are said to be five years ahead of their German competitors.

It is in these two sectors in particular that German manufacturers demand a limited protection from Far East imports. But even they don't know how this protection is to be arranged, the memorandum frankly admits.

It would be a great help, says Herr Ingwertsen, if the Japanese were a little bit less aggressive on the German market.

What the Germans really want is a two to three-year grace period to enable them to develop their video recorder production.

The memo calls on the Bonn government to decide as soon as possible in favour of cable TV and video texts. This could impart new impulses to the industry, which increasingly depends on replacement needs.

The memo also calls for "help towards self-help" and admits that such protectionist measures ill behoove a branch of industry that itself heavily depends on exports.

But this, the memo says, does not affect the industry's appeal to Bonn to promote fair terms in German-Japanese trade.

What the industry hopes for is more voluntary restriction on the part of the Japanese. It does not oppose their erecting plants in Europe."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 February 1980)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Automatic-release safety belt for cars

There can be few devices to beat the belt at improving safety and survival prospects at the wheel of a car, yet most motorists dislike safety belts and feel worried by them in one way or another.

In a long-term survey Cologne University sociologists discovered in 1976 that 62 per cent of motorists were worried helpers might not know how to unbuckle their belts in an emergency.

Fifty-eight per cent of motorists polled said they were worried they might not be able to escape from a burning car after a crash.

About 30 per cent felt generally hemmed in by a car safety belt that was fastened.

Manufacturers Kern and Liebers have now come up with a safety belt lock that snaps open automatically after an accident. It could well help to alleviate this widespread fear.

In normal circumstances the belt works in the same way as any other. To open it you simply press a button.

But if the car crashes and the belt is jerked with sufficient pressure a lock mechanism is activated that unfastens it automatically eight seconds later.

If there is a succession of crashes, as in a mass pile-up, the mechanism is reactivated each time, taking a further eight seconds to snap the lock open.

The lock also stays locked if the car turns over, leaving the motorist suspended in mid-air and at least 5kg pressure on the belt.

The lock only opens when this pressure is removed, so helpers can use both hands to give the injured man first aid; there is no need to fumble.

There is no need to wait eight seconds either. If need be, immediate pressure on the normal release mechanism will do the trick.

The automatic release functions even if the injured person is numbed by shock, and if the motorist is driving a car with which he is unfamiliar he does not have to look for the release mechanism.

A technology centre run by Allianz, the country's largest insurance company, has tested the device and given it a good rating despite initial scepticism.

It has also been tested and found satisfactory by the Materials Testing Centre, Stuttgart, and by a number of similar insitutions in Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, France, Britain and Australia.

Yet motor manufacturers have yet to be convinced. They seem mainly to fear that the device may suffer long-term damage due to corrosion.

So the automatic device will not be available as a standard fitting for a while yet. The retail price of fittings for conversion is DM130.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 16 February 1980)



Skiing boot with emergency transmitter (Phot[illegible]

Alpine SOS device fits into sole of a skiing boot

An SOS device that fits into the sole of a skiing boot was unveiled at Ispo 80, the international sportswear trade fair in Munich.

West German and Swiss manufacturers have joined forces to devise a powerful miniature transmitter that bleeps to help mountain rescue teams find avalanche victims.

The transmitter is no larger than a box of matches and slips into the sole of a boot where it is powered by perspiration.

The battery, which is claimed [illegible] 10 years for sure, is activated by s[illegible] commodity that most feet seem [illegible] generate in sufficient quantity.

The SOS call can be picked up [illegible] any transistor radio with a medium [illegible] band. The device, said to be virtually [illegible] destructible, should cost less [illegible] DM10.

Preliminary talks with ski boot m[illegible]ufacturers are already in progress, [illegible] exhibitors say. dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 23 Febru

■ SCIENCE

Continental drift theory flew in face of established thinking

In the winter of 1911 Alfred Wegener, a young German meteorologist, sat up late at his desk in the old university town of Marburg carefully studying a map.

For the umpteenth time he compared the outlines of the continents bordering the Atlantic, fascinated by their striking similarity.

They looked for all the world like matching pieces of a gigantic jigsaw puzzle, and an unmistakable match too, by the look of it.

A year later he ventured to outline his ideas to a wider public, delivering a lecture entitled Horizontal Displacement of Continents to an audience of fellow-scientists in Frankfurt on 6 January 1912.

Today's continents, he told members of the Geological Association, had originally formed a single land-mass he chose to call Pangaia.

This name, his brainchild, simply means the whole world in Greek, Gaia being the Ancient Greek goddess of the earth.

Long, long ago, he claimed, Pangaia disintegrated, and the pieces had drifted into their present position in the course of millions of years.

The experts were shocked by this new, dynamic view of the world. Established scientific opinion had it that the earth was a rigid body.

"Many leading scientists rejected Wegener's ideas out of hand, just conceivably referring to them as a curiosity but dismissing them with a wry smile," writes Andreas Vogel.

Professor Vogel is the author of the epilogue to the new edition of Wegener's chef-d'oeuvre, *Die Entstehung der Kontinente und Ozeane* (The Origin of the Continents and Oceans).

This reprint of what once was regarded as a scientific heresy appeared just in time for the International Alfred Wegener Symposium in West Berlin.

The symposium, held from 25 to 28 February, started the ball rolling in what is the eminent geoscientist and continental drift pioneer's birth centenary year.

It is also the fiftieth anniversary of his death and a long-overdue tribute to a man who has been scientifically rehabilitated since the mid-60s.

Alfred Wegener was born on 1 November 1880. His father was a Protestant clergyman in Berlin. As a boy he showed a keen interest in geography. He was particularly fascinated by polar research.

At university he read astronomy, geology and meteorology. In 1905, after graduating with a PhD, he took up a junior appointment at the Royal Prussian Aeronautical Observatory in Lindenberg.

There his work included exploring the upper atmosphere with the aid of kites and barrage balloons, and in March 1906 he and his brother Kurt ballooned from Berlin to the Spessart hills, near Augsburg, via Jutland in Denmark.

They were airborne 52 hours and set up a world record for uninterrupted flight by balloon (or, indeed, in those days by any means of air transport).

A few months after this record flight he embarked on a fresh adventure, spending two years in north-east Greenland with a Danish expedition.

His diaries still testify to the enjoyment he derived from sleigh rides in the winter nights and from the superb landscape.

Summer 1908 saw him back in Germany. In Marburg that autumn he submitted a further PhD thesis to establish he academic credentials in astronomy and meteorology.

There followed a period of extremely hard work during which the young university lecturer increasingly emerged as a geophysicist who sought to unravel the origins of the earth.

Wegener was not, however, the first scientist to spot the matching coastlines of Africa and South America and hit on the idea that they might once have been joined.

Their matching shape had long been acknowledged, and evidence in support of the continental drift theory was compiled in the second half of the 19th century by an Austrian geologist, Eduard Suess, and shortly before Wegener by an American, Frank Bursley Taylor.

"The idea that the continents might possibly have drifted apart held Wegener completely spellbound," writes Vogel, "when in autumn 1911 he came across a paper outlining affinities in the ancient animal kingdom."

Fossil remains of extinct species prove, for instance, that Africa and Brazil must once have been linked.

Wegener progressively incorporated in his theory ideas first formulated by Suess and Taylor, such as Suess's realisation that the two southern continents seemed to have shared an ice age.

There certainly are still traces of an ice age that buried much of the combined land-mass under glaciers about 280 million years ago.

Most geologists gave this new outsider a hearing but preferred to stick to their pet theory of land bridges between the continents that had sunk in the interim.

They were unable to give credence to Wegener's assumption that horizontal displacement, or drift, had taken place over distances of, in some cases, several thousand kilometres.

He pointed out in vain that sunken continents or land bridges based on the principle of isostasy, or general equilibrium in the earth's crust, were out of the question.

British geologist Sir George Airy had outlined the principle in 1855. Equilibrium was supposed to be maintained by the yielding or flow of rock material beneath the surface under gravitative stress.

There were mountain ranges of lightweight rock that extended both high above sea-level and well below it, down into the earth's crust.

The separation of land and sea, Wegener explained in his principal work, first published in 1915, was due not only to the mere presence of water.

It was also attributable to structural differences in the earth's crust. Thus no continent could simply disappear and revert to ocean.

Views also differed on how enormous mountain ranges such as the Alps or the Himalayas had come into being.

Before Wegener many geologists assumed that the earth had once been a ball of fire and shrunk as it cooled off, mountains taking shape like wrinkles on an old apple.

But each mountain range would have required the earth's crust to have cooled several thousand degrees, scientists estimated, and this could not possibly have been the case.

Wegener's explanation was that mountain ranges had folded up as wandering continents encountered resistance. The Himalayas, for instance, had taken shape when India collided with the Asian land-mass.

He had difficulty in accounting for the force that made continents drift, but one possible explanation he borrowed from Taylor was an assumed tendency for land-masses to drift away from the poles.

As the earth rotated on its axis continents were seen as slowly moving from the poles to the equator, moved by centrifugal force, as it were.

Another plausible explanation, as Wegener saw it, was a natural westward drift occasioned by tidal forces. But both are much too weak to serve as a satisfactory explanation.

The unsatisfactory nature of explanations accounting for the motive force behind the phenomenon was the main reason why the continental drift theory failed to gain general acceptance in his lifetime.

In vain he sought to prove, using radio waves for precise measurement, that Europe and Greenland were slowly drifting apart.

In spring 1930 he led the first German expedition to Greenland since the First World War, but his base camp proved not to have laid on sufficient stocks to last out the winter.

So, on the morning of his 50th birthday, he set out with an Eskimo guide to the coast, 400 km (250 miles) away. But neither man made it.

Not until April 1931 was Wegener's body discovered. He had died of a heart attack in his tent half-way to safety.

It took another 30 years for the turning point to arrive in the continental drift debate. Fresh evidence in support of the dynamic earth's crust theory slowly came to light.

It did so in measurement of fossil magnetism traces in lava and in closer scrutiny of the earth's crust on the ocean bed.

The idea of sea floor spreading along a lava belt encompassing the world took shape and was confirmed from 1969 by drilling in all seven seas by the US research vessel Glomar Challenger.

For the past 15 years or so geoscientists have combined sea floor spreading and continental drift in a new theory of tectonics.

This new theory no longer divides the globe into land and sea. Instead it works on the assumption that there are fairly rigid slabs.

Eight large slabs and about a dozen smaller ones comprise both continents and oceans, are probably powered by large-scale heat circuits in the earth's interior and mainly change at points where they border on each other.

These points of contacts are characterised by geological unstable belts, such as deep-sea divides, mountain ranges, volcanoes and earthquakes.

Uta Altmann/Günter Haaf

(Die Zeit, 22 February 1980)

Alfred Wegener: *Die Entstehung der Kontinente und Ozeane*, reprint of the 1st and 4th editions, edited with introduction and epilogue by Andreas Vogel, published by Vieweg, Brunswick/Wiesbaden 1980, 384pp., DM58.

■ EXPLORERS

Early victim of Australia's interior

Ludwig Leichhardt, a German scientist, first interested the Australians in the interior of their enormous country in 1844/45. Leichhardt covered 1,800 miles on his northbound journey, undergoing great hardship as he explored virgin territory accompanied by a few aides.

Three years later he tried to cross the continent from east to west, but vanished without trace in the bush. To this day his fate is unknown.

He first set foot in Australia in 1841 determined to explore the country, which in those days was largely uncharted and thinly populated along the coastline only.

People said he must be a madman. They firmly believed that a death zone began behind the fertile coastal plains. But Leichhardt was not lightly to be dissuaded.

In August 1844, with a party of 8, including convicts and aborigines, he started out to travel overland to the north coast.

Seven months later the expedition was still in the middle of the outback. The men were starving because provisions had run out and there were no animals to hunt.

"We marched alternately through deserts and wastes of rubber tree forest," he wrote in his diary. "There was nothing to eat again today. We are boiling the hides of the oxen we have slaughtered so we can at least sink our teeth into something."

But the seemingly impossible came true. Even though two men had decamped en route and a third was killed by natives the six survivors reached Essington, a small port on the north coast, on 17 December 1845.

Initially their tale met with disbelief. They were felt to be runaway convicts, and disbelief was not suspended until the German was able to provide proof of his identity.

In Sydney he was given a hero's welcome as he described the fertile pasture and crop land, not to mention the bumper coal deposits he had come across en route.

The colonial government awarded him a purse of £100, and when he announced his intention of attempting the east-west crossing 100 men from all over the country volunteered to accompany him.

He selected the best and embarked on his second expedition in 1846, but was soon forced by mutiny to abandon it.

In December 1847 he set out with six companions on his third expedition, from which he was never to return. His last message reached Sydney in April 1848.

In it he wrote: "We are passing through fertile savannah dotted with eucalyptus trees. There is no death zone;

Continued on page 12

■ THE ARTS

The magic of the Henry Moore workshop

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt recently unveiled a Henry Moore sculpture entitled Large Two Forms outside the Chancellor's Office.

The choice of a work by the British sculptor for this location in Bonn triggered uncommonly strong feelings among the German public.

Why was a German sculptor not commissioned, some asked, while others wondered whether there was a living German sculptor who would have been equal to the task.

But little has been heard of late about Moore's tradition, his development and his art.

So the small but carefully assembled exhibition at the Wilhelm Hack Museum in Ludwigshafen is a welcome opportunity of studying the content and origins of Moore's oeuvre.

That is to say, it does so for those interested in the artistic problems posed by the Moore in front of the *Kanzleramt* as well as in the cultural diplomacy to which it may or may not testify.

Moore himself was largely responsible for the choice of exhibits, many of which are from his private collection, such as a box of items found and kept.

This treasure trove consists of old bones, waterworn pebbles and weatherworn tree roots, and they bear such a striking resemblance to his sculpture one could be excused for supposing they were Moore's handiwork, not nature's.

Few "finished" exhibits are on show at Ludwigshafen. There are no full-size sculptures and only a handful of small bronzes.

But there are nearly 30 plaster mock-ups and as many drawings to show a Moore in all its stages of development, from the first idea to the first version of the finished product.

It takes a little patience. You must first immerse yourself in this miniature world of ideas. But then you feel ushered, as if by magic, into the artist's workshop.

The plaster mock-ups, often only the size of sideplates, enable Moore to experiment with the spatial effect of the piece, a step it is extremely difficult for the observer to follow.

Small as they are, they invariably seem surrounded by space; they never command or penetrate it.

In a few cases but only a few, the exhibition enables the visitor to compare the mock-up and the larger, finished version in stone or bronze.

But the changes in shape and effect that here come to light are an object lesson in seeing the other mock-ups clearly.

Take, for instance, Spindle Piece, 1968. The mock-up looks more compact and cohesive, its surface is as yet untreated. There is no cross-hatching to disturb the unity. The differences between flat and angular, round and pointed, dissolve.

In the finished bronze the impression of cohesion is most conspicuous by its absence. Conical points jut aggressively into space, edges seem sharper, curves softer than in the mock-up.

Light reflects to present continually different aspects. One surface is illuminated, another disappears in the dark. The mock-up has only one face, the bronze many.

Moore's drawings can be placed in three categories: nature studies, sketches for sculptures and works such as the Shelter Drawings that abstract a real situation.

These last alone are not a means to an end, yet they more than any highlight Moore's shortcomings as a draftsman. He is unable to surround his figures with an imaginary space. They merge with their surrounds, lack individuality.

They owe their fascination more to the contrast between surface and line than to a juxtaposition of individual figures. The horror of war (Shelter Drawings) and the hard work of mining coal (Coalminer Carrying Lamp) are lost in an expressive play of forms.

It almost looks as though Moore only develops an interest in people over and above the formal once he can visualise or shape them in terms of sculpture.

Only when the subject no longer obliges him to draw an imaginary space in which to house his figures, only when he can deal exclusively with their form do they come to life.

Moore's sketches for sculptures, including up to 30 variations on an idea on one sheet, are all conceived three-dimensionally, no matter how flat and linear they may appear to be.

The space in which (and against which) the sculptures have to hold their own is at most indicated by coloured, distinctive surfaces.

The drawing, in common with the figure studies of nearly all great sculptors, portrays a body, not its surroundings. It is dedicated more to its interior than to its radiation or emanation.

Once Moore has laid down a work's proportions in the mock-up the drawing (and often a photograph) help him to visualise the spatial effect of the finished version.

Yet here too he uses such a clipped



Henry Moore's 'Large Two Forms in Landscape'. (Photo: Catalogue)

vocabulary that the onlooker often finds it hard to follow the sculptor in his vision.

The hint of a shadow and a few blades of grass are enough for Moore to visualise a full-size sculpture and its interplay with nature.

Large Two Forms looks small and smooth in a drawing in which it is placed in a landscape.

But there is no further preparation for the finished product than a sketch, a mock-up and occasionally a somewhat larger working model.

These, then, are the sole supports to his imagination, providing a fascinating insight into Moore's way of looking at things.

The sketches begin with a form that has already been abstracted and merely represent variations on it, whereas the nature studies stay surprisingly close to their original.

They show Moore from another side altogether, devoted to nature, full of respect for its peculiarities, keen to capture the essential features of a motif.

The thick fleece of his Sheep, 1972, stands for their slow grazing motions, their stubborn gaze and their need for the warmth of the flock in winter.

The Artist's Hands, 1973, are unusually powerful, both a self-portrait and portrait of his art. They rise up against a nervously cross-hatched background as a sculpted unit.

They enclose each other, respond to one another with curves and hollows, with enclosed space and compressed space, are trustingly laid in each other yet alarmingly folded together.

Moore studies the shapes of humans and animals as intensively as he does those of bones, shells and old roots. He is on the lookout for features shared, for hints of the sheep in the pebble, of the root in the person.

He does not abstract step by step, preferring to combine various suggestions. The shape of an old flint may well better visualise than a *Recumbent Figure* what interests him in the supine form.

Large Two Forms is likewise a variation on the recumbent figure. The Ludwigshafen exhibition clearly indicates how pointless it is to envisage a straight line leading back to some first original or other.

Katharina Hegewisch

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 February 1980)

Tutankhamen still a drawcard

In the history of Ancient Egypt and its dynasties of pharaohs Tutankhamen, who ascended the throne in 1332 BC aged eight and died nine years later, is little more than a peripheral figure.

The son of Echnaton and Nefertiti, he did not become a household name until his grave, complete with any number of incalculably valuable offerings, was discovered in the Valley of Kings in 1922.

Tutankhamen's treasure trove of more than 5,000 items is the highlight and pride of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

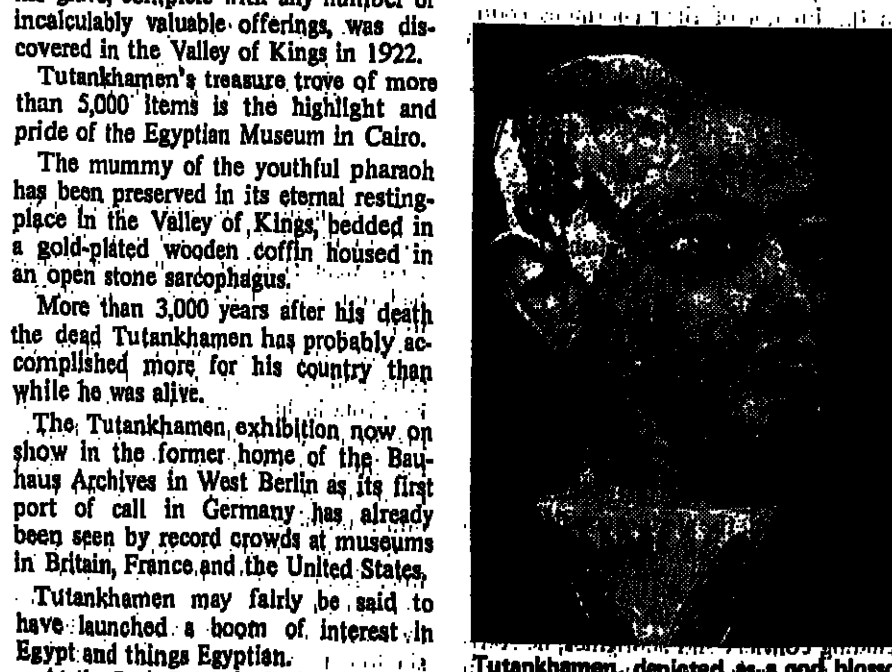
The mummy of the youthful pharaoh has been preserved in its eternal resting-place in the Valley of Kings, bedded in a gold-plated wooden coffin housed in an open stone sarcophagus.

More than 3,000 years after his death the dead Tutankhamen has probably accomplished more for his country than while he was alive.

The Tutankhamen exhibition now on show in the former home of the Bauhaus Archives in West Berlin as its first port of call in Germany has already been seen by record crowds at museums in Britain, France and the United States.

Tutankhamen may fairly be said to have launched a boom of interest in Egypt and things Egyptian.

At the Petit Palais in Paris the exhibi-



Tutankhamen, depicted as a god blossoming out of a lotus flower. (Photo: Catalogue)

tion was seen by two-and-a-half million people. At the British Museum, in London two million passed through the turnstiles. In the United States nearly eight million visitors were registered.

The dead child-king's goodwill tour may well have earned Egypt more sympathy in the United States in particular than can have been, say, to Israel's liking.

This respect and political sympathy, pitted against an Israel anxious not to forfeit its own influence in America, made the tutankhamen exhibition highly political.

In Berlin comparable crowds are expected. Day before the doors opened about 40,000 people had already bought tickets, which in itself was entirely new in the history of German museum exhibitions.

The organiser, the Egyptian Museum of the Prussian Cultural Foundation state museums, has been happy to go along with the ballyhoo.

Director Jürgen Settgast has imitation jewellery, a Tutankhamen calendar and even Tutankhamen tee-shirts at the ready to help ensure a steady stream of visitors.

So Good King Tut seems sure to

Continued on page 12

■ THE THEATRE

Three simultaneous premieres for Hochhuth's 'Juristen'

Yet another another explosive play has hit the German theatre scene: Rolf Hochhuth's "Juristen" (Jurists). The moralist-playwright has once more attempted to tackle a touchy subject — and in doing so has produced his most mature and most topical play so far. Since the big theatres shied away from it, the premiere took place simultaneously in three lesser theatres (Göttingen, Heidelberg and Hamburg's Ernst Deutsch Theatre.)

Although many say that Rolf Hochhuth lacks the talent a good playwright needs, he certainly does not lack courage. The theatre-going public will be unanimous in its view that, with his play *Juristen* Hochhuth has once more come up with what can only be called "serious political theatre."

Even before the playwright's dispute in court with the ex-prime minister of Baden-Württemberg, Hans Filbinger (who had been a military judge during the war and whom Hochhuth had called "a terrible jurist", his right to do so having been upheld in court), he had seized on this delicate subject.

The question was: how can a democratic country like the Federal Republic of Germany permit people who had failed to mete out justice during the war, as would have been their duty, to rise to the highest offices in this country?

Instead of trying to save lives, these people had demanded even stiffer sentences than those passed by lower courts.

Hochhuth deals with people and facts with full frankness and naming names. His characters are artful portraits of realities.

The plot takes place in the present. Minister Heilmayer goes to his daughter's student pad to congratulate Tina on having graduated in law. There he meets Dieter, also a jurist and Tina's financee, and the doctor, Klaus, a friend of theirs.

Klaus once took part in a demonstration way back in the 60s and now comes under the so-called "Radicals Act".

As a result, he has lost his job and now hopes that Tina's father can get him re-employed.

The minister, one of the promulgators of the Act, tries to explain the necessity for it by pointing to our democracy, when Klaus tosses some records at him that prove Heilmayer's responsibility for some death sentences during the war.

A dispute between the generations ensues and the fronts harden. Confronted with the enormity of the facts. Tina rejects her father and no longer wants to know about marrying Dieter (who, in the closing scene, displays the same opportunistic attitude as Heilmayer).

Heilmayer gains the upper hand again on hearing that Klaus does not intend to make any use of the old war records.

The whole thing was deliberately modelled on a Greek tragedy. There is plenty of *Sturm und Drang* in Hochhuth's indefatigable search for truth.

The film spots that are projected into the stage startle the audience.

The quotations from real life and the genuine documents which Hochhuth introduces once more demonstrate his literary weakness.

Even so, his *Juristen* is his best play and has one major advantage. It does not flag towards the end but becomes even more poignant. After a somewhat banal beginning with burlesque elements (the three friends make mock of the policemen who are there to protect the minister) and editorial-style dialogues, the author lets his characters fire away with emotions that eventually lead to a quied pro quo dispute. The satirical essay on art, which in Germany suffers *from self-censorship* and ample state subsidies and so condemns itself to insignificance, has its effect on the audience.



Daniela Ziegler as Tina and Friedrich Schütte as minister Heilmayer in Hochhuth's 'Juristen'. (Photo: Jutta Ungelenk-Stamp)

Hochhuth lashes out with vehemence by raising the most sensitive political issues of our time. But nothing is fully and conclusively discussed — and how could it be considering the overcrowded "tribunal"?

But what matters is the confrontation of the audience and, on the stage, the confrontation between generations: here we have a debate that could bring some clarity.

The author should be grateful to Friedrich Schütte for the theatrically effective presentation of the discussion text in the Hamburg staging.

Schütter and Hans-Peter Kurr reduced the extensive text to a manageable three hours and cut the cast by eight characters.

In Erich Grandeit's room in an old city building it was particularly the four central characters that impressed: Schütter himself as the minister (not at all polemically distorted), Klaus Wilcke as Dieter, Peter Zilles as an essentially peaceful Klaus and the spectacularly outstanding Daniela Ziegler as a stubborn Tina.

They did not shirk away from the occasional outburst and remained credible *throughout this remarkable performance.*

Günter Zschacke

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 16 February 1980)

Sorrows of a non-conformist 'communist Oscar Wilde'

A huge red star, suspended, dominates the background of the stage while up front an outsized poster praises the "Sweet Revolution".

Below is a commemorative wall for the Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovski, surrounded by a large group of people paying tribute to the man who committed suicide in 1935.

The deeply moved voice of the literary historian Ossip M. Brik, who is later to act as Mayakovski's alter ego, delivers a few words in praise of the dead man.

Four little boys, tenderly made up and dressed as little negros, ask a few theatrical questions about Mayakovski's life and death.

The first answer is prompt in coming. With a crash as usual when Olaf Tschierschke directs a play in Münster, a monstrous symbol takes possession of the scene: a labyrinth-like glass house.

The stage workers carry it so far to the front that they ram the memorial wall, which collapses and so no longer obstructs the view of the building.

Mayakovski has nothing to hide from his fellow man, as borne out by the glass house — not even his heavy drinking and his love affairs.

It is with such exaggeration that the premiere of a play entitled *The Non-Person or the Turkish Bath and Death of Mayakovski* begins — a play written by a man who knows all about state disrespect for art. He is Joachim Seyppel, born in Berlin in 1919.

Disappointed with his lack of literary success, he went to the GDR in 1973. But he met with little love there and is now spending a vacation in Hamburg.

What follows is equally exaggerated and drastic. Put in a nutshell, Seyppel wants to depict the sorrows of a non-conformist "communist Oscar Wilde" pushed around by the party.

Instead of yielding to the Stalinist guardians of ideology, Mayakovski doggedly defends himself, his nonconformism and his plans (among them the intention to tour the West) against the all-powerful party.

But his resistance does not last very long. The omnipresent "eye of the revolutionary order", personified by the cold Nikita Sergeyevitsch (Thomas Heller), sees everything and finally manages to get "the communist dandy" down.

For starters, the career functionary stops a rehearsal of Mayakovski's anti-bureaucracy satire, *The Turkish Bath*, because it allegedly mocks Karl Marx. This is followed by a brainwashing of the writer, which Tschierschke depicts as a nasty surgery ritual — though only in passing.

While the Brik couple are permitted to travel to London, Mayakovski's trip is turned down. Instead, he is sent as a reporter to Siberia, told that he is sick and exposed to many other chicaneries until he has no choice but to kill himself.

So much for the beginning and the end of this very worthwhile play.

The staging as a whole is full of coincidental but gigantic and always plausible symbols (a combine in the face of which the poet is branded a work-shirking nonentity even posthumously).

There is no wishy-washiness in the acting nor is there any mystery. As if they wanted to develop further Fassbinder's Bremen staging in the early 70s, the characters act true to life throughout.

Out of love and enmity, rebellion and sympathy they create meaningful contacts, embraces and conquests.

The impression is that the actors always need a few seconds to recover from a shock and start reacting. The overall impression of this première (including the sets by Hartmut Krügener) is palpably sensuous.

This is enhanced by the admirable certainty shown by the entire cast, including the extras. It is obvious that they understand the deeper meaning of their actions.

Joachim Henschke as Mayakovski sometimes appears like a replica of Telly Savalas of Kojak fame. The audience expects him to start advertising some detergent or another any moment — an allusion to Mayakovski's penchant for advertising himself.

On another occasion, he conveys the impression of a wrestler whose powerful body is bound to survive his throttled intellect for a long time.

Günter Gräfenberg (Brik) sticks strictly to the director's instructions and always conveys what Mayakovski is not at any given moment: he schemes while Mayakovski yields to his self-satisfied moods and addictions or he is excited while Mayakovski sinks into the apathy of desperation.

The performance is full of clarifying information even in its seemingly unimportant but carefully structured mass scenes.

In the end, this staging tells us, Mayakovski was not only a victim of Stalinist arrogance. He was also torn apart by the contradictions within himself which he considered his right but which he could not stomach once the people around him expected him to do so.

Ground down by *Turkish Bath* staging permits and staging bans, by the anger of the people and their applause and final denunciation, by romantic propositions and the withholding of love, he had no choice but to shoot himself, aged 36.

At least, this is how Seyppel and Tschierschke see his life and how it is worth being seen on the stage.

Jürgen Schmidt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 February 1980)

■ EDUCATION

'Dangers of lethargy' in universities

A lethargy has set in in our universities that is more dangerous than the campus violence of the 1960s.

The enemies now are not extremists but they are nevertheless powerful. They can best be summed up as the University Framework Law and the three parties responsible for it in conjunction with the Bonn Government and the Standing Conference of Education Ministers — not to mention the bureaucracies in Bonn and the *Länder*.

Yielding to union pressure, our mediocre politicians want to steer the universities on a course of egalitarianism.

In the past 20 years, the universities have reacted rather than acted. They have reacted to the quadrupling of enrolment, to the organisational reforms and to their politicisation.

In the 90s, or so they hope, the student body will diminish greatly and then they will be able to act again.

The low birth rate generation will then enrol and with it will come time to think and perhaps reverse the present course.

But all this will remain utopian if the grand coalition of the lax manages to push through the "Principles of Study and Examinations" which the Permanent Commission for Study Reforms has already adopted.

The Commission, made up of representatives of the *Länder*, the universities, the Bonn Government, the trade unions and the employers' associations has, in an initial move, presented two papers.

Detractors stood poised with acid pens when it seemed that the decision could go in favour of the rector of Oldenburg University, Krüger, and his Hamburg supporter, Müller.

It is not as if this partisan paper were not right for Oldenburg, but Oldenburg conditions cannot be applied to Cologne or Frankfurt or Munich. Had this been done, it could only have been termed a joke.

All but the trade unions realised that *a new attempt had to be made.*

A compromise has meanwhile been prepared, and what it amounts to is in part a verbatim adoption of the 22 orientation points which Bonn Science and Research Minister Jürgen Schmude issued in 1978 as a recommendation for supra-regional study reforms.

This is not surprising since the best compromise that could be achieved between the dim-witted and the astute, between employers and unions, the left and the right, had already been pointed out by Herr Schmude.

It was hard work for the Permanent Commission to agree on this paper.

The fact that the one or the other university might adopt this compromise is unobjectionable. But even the best compromise is bad if it is to apply to all universities from Berlin to Aachen and from Kiel to Munich.

Most subjects are still geared to specialised sciences. The Principles of the Permanent Commission have counterbalanced this with their demand for practice and career orientation. In extreme cases, this would lead to a disintegration of specialised branches of science.

The idea that the universities as a whole must be open to the working population belongs in the same category. Moreover, university study is not only to make up in substance for what has been missed in secondary school, but it is also to have a pedagogic function: the salient points of the Principles are social learning and the orientation difficulties of students.

These, rather than the strict requirements of science and research are to determine the curriculum and the manner of teaching.

As a result, the upper grades of secondary school would presume university status while the university would be levelled down to a secondary school.

And, finally, the Principles want to perpetuate the fiction that all graduations are equal in standard; in other words, that all universities are equal.

Rumour on the periphery of the Standing Conference of Education Ministers already has it that all this is to become part of the examination regulations.

If all this were implemented, the universities would only be free regarding follow-up studies after the basic curriculum has been completed.

The West German Rectors' Conference has already permitted itself to be lured dangerously far along this road. At the end of it there would be a basic course of studies plus follow-up studies that would extend the training of new scientists (because the basic course of studies would be of little benefit). And soon everybody would demand that they be admitted to the follow-up courses.

What we need instead of such uniformity is competing study models.

Apart from universities that would also promote the working population, we must have universities that would, from the first semester to the last, serve the strict ideal of unity of research and teaching.

There would be room enough for blends between the specialised and the elite university.

What is needed is competition instead of boredom, variety instead of hypocritical uniformity. *Kurt Reumann*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 February 1980)

Teaching of French to get priority

More schools in North Rhine-Westphalia are to offer French as a first foreign language. The new policy will depend on the location of the school and whether there are enough teachers.

It seems that the *Land* Ministry reacted promptly to a complaint by the French Embassy in Bonn which, at the beginning of this year, strongly deplored the lack of French instruction in German schools.

The note pointed to the fact that every secondary school in France offers German as a first foreign language while almost all German schools have English as their number one foreign language.

Our neighbours across the Rhine are right, but their complaint is somewhat academic considering the difference in educational systems. After all, in France, too, English ranks in place one as the chosen foreign language.

This is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future — neither in France nor in Germany. English is, after all, the language of the world, having replaced French which held that position last century.

Still, we should not minimise the decision to give French a chance at North Rhine-Westphalia's schools — even though this will probably not change the figures: Most children will continue to opt for English.

Learning a foreign language also means gaining access to the culture of the nation concerned. And this is not a matter of statistics but of intellectual interest.

This being so, the individual rather than the authorities should decide which language is to have priority.

Hans Joachim Schyle

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 February 1980)

Early victim

Continued from page 9

this is a promised land for thousands of settlers."

But then he and his companions vanished without trace somewhere in the outback. Search parties were sent out, the last in 1858.

This last group discovered the remains of Leichhardt's diary on the edge of a desert. All that could still be read was a German inscription in the cover.

It was a quotation from Goethe: "The Gods need many a good man to serve them in this wide world."

(Die Welt, 22 February 1980)

Tutankhamen

Continued from page 10

ve an archaeo-Egyptological hit in West Germany, and rightly so. The 55 exhibits, ranging from the mummy in miniature to vases, bowls and containers in gold, silver and alabaster are works of art and religious relics of foremost importance.

They and the portrayals of the King as Sun God, the King with a Harpoon and the King on a Panther are regal in both their strict adherence to form, the choice nature of their materials and the finish that has survived the millenia.

The exhibition is superbly arranged, albeit somewhat limited for space, and since for safety's sake only 700 visitors at a time are allowed inside the two-storey building, queues and congestion are a foregone conclusion.

In the entrance visitors are welcomed by Selket, a graceful goddess in gilt wood. On her head she sports her emblem, a scorpion.

Her task was to guard, alongside three other goddesses, the canopy containers with the intestines of the mummified king.

A gilt wooden figure of the God Ptah, the master of the world order, a throne made of conifer wood partly covered in gold leaf, a crook made of bronze, gold and dark blue glass to signify divine (and later regal) power, a golden sceptre, an intestinal coffin made of gold, carneol, obsidian and glass and all manner of jewels and artefacts lead the way to the pièce de résistance.

It is, of course, the famous gold mask, in imitation of the king's face and mounted on the head and shoulders of the mummy, bandaged from head to toe.

The gold mask of Tutankhamen seems sure to prove as popular as the bust of Nefertiti in the Egyptian Museum's main building on the other side of the road.

The exhibition is likely to cost the museum between DM3m and DM[illegible]. Costs are to be recouped from the sale of tickets, catalogues and the like. A surplus will go to the Egyptian administration of antiquities in Cairo.

The Berlin organisers are not worried about recouping the costs. The exhibition appeals not only to experts and specialists but also to the man in the street.

As Egypt's President Sadat, patron of the exhibition, puts it in his foreword to the catalogue, it gives some idea of Egyptian civilisation at a time when it set the rest of the world an example.

Doubtless, he adds, people in the Federal Republic of Germany will share the feelings of the Egyptian people toward a civilisation in the discovery of which German scientists played such a major role. *Hellmut Kotschenreuther*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 20 February 1980)

Help for the forgetful

A research project at Mannheim University is working on ways to help children with bad memories.

It also hopes to help teachers improve presentation of lessons.

The research team, headed by Professor Theo Hermann, hopes that eventually the texts of children's and school books will be more consistent with the workings of a child's mind, and overcome distaste for certain subjects.

When reading a story to a child, one frequently notice that the child's attention is riveted by certain details and passages which the reader would have overlooked.

Often, the story is linked with something the child has experienced before and is thus endowed with an entirely new meaning.

The development of a child's memory of stories and fairy tales has been an important subject of psychological research in recent years.

Experts assume that stories are all similarly structured and that they follow the patterns of what can be termed "story grammar."

In terms of this grammar, a story always has an introduction of its "theme", the "framework conditions" (for instance, space and time) and the unfolding of the actual plot with the final dénouement.

Must we therefore take it that remembering certain passages of a story depends on whether, in terms of the grammar, they are central or peripheral?

The study is also to shed light on how certain abilities, preferences and the subjective association with the story help or hinder the child to remember.

It has already been established that there are certain mistakes that are typical for specific age groups.

For instance: children confuse the sequence of events or they are unable to understand why one event results from another.

The project is directed at children aged between four and nine. This age group has been chosen because it is known that the decisive change in mental abilities takes place in pre-school and elementary school age.

In the course of the study and over a period of two years, children are repeatedly told stories and then, at varying intervals, asked how much they have remembered.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 February 1980)

■ MEDICINE

Heidelberg Free Clinic comes back — without the controversy

Heidelberg's controversial Free Clinic, axed by slum clearance in 1978, has been back in business for a year.

Unlike its predecessor, it shuns the limelight and tries not to be provocative.

The clinic was viewed years ago as an exotic attempt to provide drug addicts and prospective junkies with outpatient medical and psychological help.

It was a success, a headline news success, until the city closed it down as part of a slum clearance scheme.

But from 1972 to 1978 the clinic and its staff of 13, including doctors, therapists and social workers, was tolerated.

And it was tolerated because it really was able to help young people where established facilities proved a failure.

Heidelberg Free Clinic was free in two senses of the word. Without money or a doctor's certificate the needy could still be sure of treatment, while the therapy provided was intended to be free from the compulsory features of conventional treatment.

The clinic was part of the scene, as were the local freaks, and its success was due in no small measure to the staff sharing their patients' views on life.

The help given was given to the same sort of people, people who talked about laboratory findings and their psychic hang-ups squatting on mattresses drinking tea, not at an impersonal office desk.

Logically enough in the circumstances psychotherapy, not the prescription *block*, was the hallmark of treatment at Heidelberg Free Clinic.

The Bonn Ministry of Family Affairs provided an annual subsidy of about DM150,000. The municipal welfare department paid for treatment of the uninsured (and it was strictly 'no names, no pack drill').

But the end came in 1978 when Ministry subsidies lapsed and the city was unwilling to shoulder part of the extra bill. Heidelberg even served the clinic notice to quit its premises in Brunnengasse.

It withdrew support on the ground that the clinic's drugs concept was unsatisfactory, staff arguing that in preventive care the distinction between legal and illegal drugs was not what mattered most.

The reasons for a person's drug consumption were the crux of the matter, clinic staff maintained.

They also upset people with more conventional views by rejecting the idea of repairing sick individuals to make them fit to face society again.

Their aim was to enable people to gain a more sensitive insight into themselves and their surroundings, thereby contributing towards change in society.

The Free Clinic became for many like the proverbial red rag to the bull, especially when it was suspected of having links with the Socialist Patients' Collective, whose members included Baader-Meinhof urban guerrillas.

Since the beginning of 1979 eight men and one woman have run a new Free Clinic in an old hat factory housing a medical practice and a psychiatric-cum-welfare centre.

The three doctors, two therapists, a nurse, a social worker, a conscript on non-military service and a lawyer have



in many ways sought to carry on where the original Free Clinic left off.

The surgery waiting room, furnished with old armchairs and heated by a coal stove, looks very much like the living room of an apartment shared by half a dozen students or young people.

During surgery hours one staff member cares for visitors here, chatting with them, answering queries, making pots of tea and playing music.

Sitting in a circle around two tables the patients wait for the doctor of their choice. When their turn comes round he disappears into a consulting room with them, taking time for the conversation and reaching agreement with the patient on the form treatment is to take.

There are no white coats and there is no gleaming but sterile equipment to spoil the cosy, confidence-building atmosphere.

Others call because of psychic problems. They can chat with a therapist and discuss whether group or individual therapy would suit them best.

On average the three general practitioners treat 450 patients per quarter, about 50 of whom do not have a doctor's certificate.

A conventional practice of this size would handle between 700 and 1,000 patients over this period, so the Free Clinic doctors really do take time with their patients.

About 100 people with psychiatric problems regularly attend therapy groups lasting between 6 and 12 months, while a further 20 undergo individual therapy.

The demand is so great that many a would-be patient has to wait for weeks until a place is available.

As yet most patients are either university students or recent graduates, but the 20- to 30-year-olds include an increasing number of pupils and employed persons. The number of older patients is growing too.

Many of them have their own tales of woe with doctors and hospitals. About 10 per cent of patients undergoing therapy hope the Free Clinic will be able to help them after conventional psychiatry has failed to do so.

The clinic is financed from the doctors' earnings, from a DM35,000 annual subsidy provided by a charitable organisation and from membership dues of a support group.

The attempt to treat patients and clients as individuals with equal rights is not the only way in which the new Heidelberg Free Clinic is exemplary.

Staff all earn a flat DM900 per month and hold personal responsibility for their respective work. On matters affecting the clinic as a whole they hold equal rights.

Conflicts naturally arise at work, just as problems affect their activities. Staff regularly meet to mull them over. For the present, at least, work is shared easily and the nine get on cordially and sensitively with each other.

The Brunnengasse premises included a tea room. The hat factory does not. So the people who used to come round for a cuppa and occasionally joined the staff in groups dealing with health and women's problems no longer do so.

Groups of this kind, maintained by visitors, were the hallmark of the old Free Clinic.

Now only the specialists are left the clinic, good intentions notwithstanding, has more in common with a service enterprise trading in health.

The staff are well aware of this problem and try hard to bridge the gap between themselves and specialists and those who seek their help and to teach others to help themselves.

Work with drug addicts has also changed. The erstwhile scene no longer exists. Heroin addicts can only be given advice and referral, since they need ward treatment.

The others, alcoholics and pill-poppers in large numbers, are hard to reach because they live in isolation in their apartment blocks.

There is less hue and cry about the Free Clinic nowadays because the clinic itself has grown quieter. Doctors and therapists concentrate on their work and try to offer patients better assistance and a lasting change in their surroundings.

The clinic currently tends to live a life separate from communal institutions and no longer behaves in a provocative manner towards red tape or the general public as it used to do.

Therapy, the slogan used to be, is permanent revolution. The staff now feel somewhat differently that:

"It is not enough to stand at a certain point in a river and save children and adults from death by drowning; there must also be people who look upstream to see how everyone gets into the water day by day."

The Free Clinic has changed in the way it assesses itself. So has social work in general. The clinic's work is no longer as spectacular as it once was; social work too has changed to make treatment along these lines more a matter of course.

This tendency is strangely characteristic of a contradiction in the development of society as a whole.

Many people with alternative ideas feel subject to stronger pressure to conform, yet on the quiet many details have undergone change.

Under a blanket of resignation something is on the move. Democratisation might well be the appropriate term for it. *Hans-Hermann Klare*

(Vorwärts, 21 February 1980)

Help for aged

Sixty old folk in Wilhelmshaven are trying out the 'Funkfinger', an electronic device that connects them by telephone with a local hospital in an emergency. Developed by AEG-Telefunken with financial backing from the Bonn Research Ministry, the system is designed to enable the aged and infirm to end their days in dignity rather than be bundled off to an institution because there is no-one at home who can look after them.

(Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

Link between blood type and illness

The pundits have argued for decades whether there is any connection between blood groups and certain complaints (or indeed life expectancy).

A bibliographic review in *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift* clearly indicates "there is a fair number of diseases in which the frequency of a specific blood group can no longer be denied."

People with the blood group A account for an above-average proportion of victims of stomach cancer, cancer of the colon, the rectum and other organs.

Duodenal ulcers, on the other hand, are uncommonly frequent among those with an 0 blood group, which very much seems to be the best bet.

Os suffer from a number of complaints less frequently than others. They are 60-per-cent more likely to reach or exceed the age of 75 than, say, As.

What is more, 0s are more frequent among athletes than among the population as a whole.

These findings would seem to contraindicate the once predominant view that genes of B, B and 0 blood groups are neutral in terms of selection.

In relatively isolated areas, such as Ireland, Corsica, Valais and others, the 0 gene is fairly widespread.

In these areas outbreaks of the plague used to be much less common than in, say, India, Turkey or Lower Egypt, where 0 blood is fairly uncommon.

This is due to the A antigen in the plague bacillus, while a similar process has been noted in respect of smallpox.

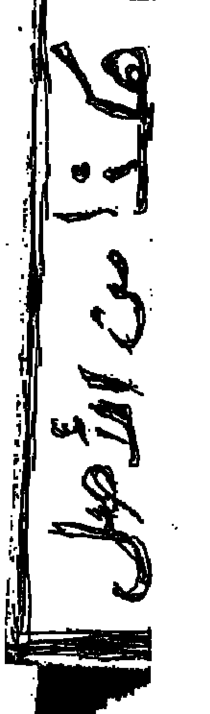
Now the main epidemic diseases have been contained, the circumstances under which selection takes place would seem to have changed. 0 blood is no longer the overwhelming advantage it may once have been.

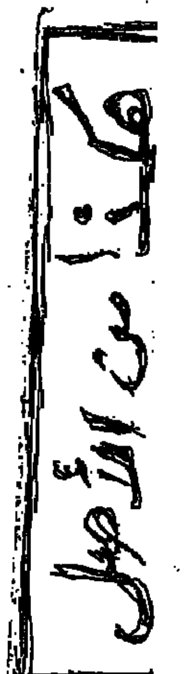
Individual health precautions based on genetic analysis are a distinct possibility following research into these connections and into the human leucocyte antigen system, which is likewise genetically controlled.

G. Jörgensen, the author of the magazine article, feels this to be both a fascinating and an alarming prospect. Knowledge of a person's genetic data could lead to discrimination.

So this too is a context in which computer protection requires careful consideration. *Stefan M. Gergely*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 February 1980)





■ SOCIETY

Study aid, rest cures for housewives

The Müttergenesungswerk (MGW), an organisation providing rest and recreation for mothers, has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. MGW was founded by Elly Heuss-Knapp on 31 January 1950. It was both a "repair shop for mothers" and the spearhead in the struggle for equal rights for women. But as MGW begins its 31st year it has also become an emancipation movement for men: fathers who have to raise children alone have become eligible.

In her founding speech in 1950, Elly Heuss-Knapp said that the women who had done a man's job while their husbands were at war and later in POW camps could not be asked by their returning husbands to go back to being serfs as if nothing had happened.

But the nation had other things to worry about in those days. What mattered then was in fact only to do a "repair job" without *frills* and extras.

Elisabeth Ehrtmann of Lübeck, one of the pioneers of the movement, says: "The important thing was to get the mothers away from the daily treadmill, away from their families and worries."

Together with a few devoted helpers and the Lübeck branch of the Caritas organisation, she organised the first rest cure for mothers from 18 October to 8 November 1950 in a Baltic resort.

The work involved was enormous because it was not enough to get the mothers away from their husbands and children; somebody also had to be found who would replace them during their absence. Food and clothing had to be found. The food came primarily from Swedish donations (the CARE era had not yet come to Germany). The clothing was also donated in bulk or collected by canvassing homes.

"Many people got their first shoes from Caritas in those days," reminisces Frau Ehrtmann.

The first vacations from mothers were financed through subsidies. Though participants were asked to bear some of the cost, this did not amount to much. The daily rate was DM4.50.

But then the Public Welfare Authority started subsidising the organisation. Eventually, the national health insurance system also contributed as did a number of charitable organisations, including the *German Red Cross.*

The municipalities were also called upon to help and it was rather fortuitous that Elisabeth Ehrtmann was the wife of a senator who went out of his way to help.

Help was primarily needed for a permanent recreation home in Wesloe. This home depended entirely on donations in any form. The mothers who went there were not live-in vacationers because they had small children to look after and had to be back home for the night.

Needless to say, tings did not always go smoothly. But the mishaps are shrugged off in retrospect and have become jokes.

There was, for instance, the scorcher of a summer when wood for heating arrived by the ton as did butter that simply melted away and was in danger of spoiling because there was no retrigeration.

Senator Ehrtmann helped in the nick of time by having the butter taken to the municipal cold store.

And then there was the day when several tons of stinking herring arrived.

Elisabeth Ehrtmann has many reports telling her what these first vacations meant to the harried mothers. All these reports contain such key words as "warm", "cosy", "without a care in the world".

In those days, too, German women had a weight problem — in reverse. They tried to reach the magic 100-lbs mark, working their way up, not down.

Schleswig-Holstein alone had some 8,000 refugee women at that time with more than four children and no father and provider; and 55,000 fathers were jobless.

Nation-wide, there were 980,000 war widows and 1.3 million war orphans. The Red Cross had a card index with 20 million missing people.

Things were so bad that any change could only be for the better.

As things started improving, almost unnoticeable at first, the problems confronting MGW changed.

"Today the symptoms of the mothers coming to us are different. In many instances they are more serious, regardless of the number of children.

"Women today suffer from psychosomatic problems, primarily depression. This is due to the discrimination against housewives and mothers who 'contribute nothing to the economy and are unproductive because they don't work'," says Regina Pabst, the successor to Elisabeth Ehrtmann at the Lübeck branch of Caritas.

A documentation published by MGW to mark its 25th anniversary indicates that the organisation first started pondering the "position of mothers in today's society" in 1963.

The documentation stresses that "the need for social counselling is becoming more pressing."

Starting in 1967, MGW introduced special holidays for mothers going to university.

The "gorging wave" had engulfed the nation and the emphasis shifted to losing weight under medical supervision.

Since 1968 work has centred around another aspect: the education short… ings of housewives and mothers.

In the years since, MGW has de… more and more time to pondering… *to include the husbands of* vacati… women in their social and educa… work. Eventually, the emphasis s… to educational courses as a follow-u… the vacation.

The work of MGW now concent… more on turning "patients" who h… always played second fiddle and s… themselves as the family servant… self-confident personalities knowing… ir own worth.

Seventy per cent of today's c… (DM1,800) of a vacation for mothers… financed by the public sector, prim… the national health system.

However it refuses to finance "the… apies" that consist only of conversatio… and psychological treatment.

Though Dr Veronika Carstens, … wife of Germany's president and c… man of MGW, is confident that the n… tional health system will change its … tude, until this happens MGW will … progress very far beyond being a "rep… shop".

Julius Geise
(Kieler Nachrichten, 20 February 19…)





Away from the strain: housewives relax by painting.
(Photo: Müttergenesungs…)

A right men don't want

The law permitting men to take th… wives' surnames has been in ex… tence for 3 1/2 years.

But only 2 per cent of grooms opt… take on the bride's surname, says Ha… burg Registrar Peter Sievers.

The situation in other parts of t… country is pretty much the same. A… last summer, when even those who h… married before 1 July 1976 were perm… ted to adopt their wives' family nam… there was only a momentary rush wh… soon subsided.

Only 80 Hamburg couples opted fo… change of name between July and De… cember 1979.

Herr Sievers can only guess why th… lawmakers' efforts met with so little… sponse from the public. "Evident… there are not many men who want… forgo their ancient rights.

"But there is also the fact that fath… exert pressure on their sons, frequen… just before they step before the reg… trar."

Before the new law, any change… name was costly and tedious. Today… costs DM3 in handling fees.

dpa
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 February 19…)

■ THE WINTER OLYMPICS

Christa goes in fighting and gets a silver

DIE WELT

Christa Kinshofer shook her blonde hair with a laugh and said: "I am not usually superstitious, but what happened here at Lake Placid was enough to make me feel there might be more to *dreams* than meets the eye.

"In my first night at the Olympic Village I dreamt I was going to win the silver medal in the slalom."

She did, too. On 23 February she was runner-up to Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein in the special slalom and a smiling Olympic silver medallist.

The day before she had not had that smile on her face. She could not take her mind off the giant slalom, in which she had finished fifth after winning last year's World Cup.

She was hopping mad because she had not performed as well as she knew she could have done.

After a break of three weeks at Lake Placid due to meniscus trouble she had allowed herself to believe she no longer stood a chance.

"Just imagine," she said. "I started the giant slalom firmly convinced I stood no chance of winning a medal, and not until half-way through did I realise it was all in the mind."

So in the special slalom she decided to ski flat out. She realised it would be her last chance of medal honours at Lake Placid.

And in she went fighting, with the instinct that must surely count for more in competitive skiing than the most punishing of training schedules.

"In the first run I knew after the first three gates that the course suited me. I had found my rhythm. It was like a dream."

It was certainly a dream Christa Kinshofer had chases with clenched fists and teeth. She was determined to prove not only to herself but also to coaching staff and Skiing Association officials that she had not forgotten how to ski.

No-one was really convinced she would be able to repeat her last season's showing, and that made her doubly keen to prove them all wrong.

But officials were duly pleased, especially with themselves, as the first shower of congratulations showed. Take Rosi Mittermaier, double gold medallist at Innsbruck in 1976.

"My congratulations to coach Mayr on this magnificent victory", she said over intercom, "and to Christa too."

Christa fully appreciated the innuendo but chose to ignore it at the moment of victory. "It's all over now. Now I can celebrate. I'm going dancing," was all she had to say.

Beforehand she had kept strictly to the piste. "In all other respects," she said, "I kept myself to myself. I went to the Olympic Village disco more than once, but only to get myself a milk shake."

Olympic silver in the special slalom! Christa Kinshofer shook her head and suddenly whispered: "Gosh, I am happy."

This feeling of happiness was so overwhelming that she wanted to tell her nearest and dearest the moment she had passed the post.

From the changing room at Whiteface Mountain she rang her parents back home in Miesbach, Bavaria. "Why," she said, "they're even more excited than I am."

Klaus Blume
(Die Welt, 25 February 1980)

Christa Kinshofer
(Photo: dpa)

Success from the brink of despair

At the end of her freestyle routine Dagmar Lurz hardly had enough energy left to curtsey to the public. She staggered rather than skated to the side of the rink.

There she collapsed in the arms of team doctor Wolf-Dieter Montag. She was completely exhausted.

"I was shattered. I no longer know how I managed to leave the ice," she later said. But by then she was wearing Olympic bronze.

It was a fitting reward for the 21-year-old Dortmund medical student's tremendous display of energy. Usually a bundle of nerves, she really excelled herself at Lake Placid.

"Dagmar's performance today was absolutely unbelievable," said national coach Erich Zeller, a man not usually given to fanciful praise.

She had been handicapped for three days by a heavy cold, with only vitamin jabs keeping her going. Her Olympic freestyle routine was the performance of a lifetime.

That afternoon she had been on the brink of despair, twice in her final training session having failed to pull off the treble rittberger.

"I just haven't the strength. I shall never last the distance in my freestyle this evening," she sighed, feeling years of preparation had been in vain.

She was only four points ahead of Emi Watanabe of Japan, who was placed fourth at that stage of the proceedings. She suddenly felt it was a mere hair's breadth.

The pre-routine warm-up brought little encouragement either. Twice she had to abandon an attempted treble salchow and make do with a double — for her a sure sign she would fail to pull it off when it counted.

Then she took to the ice for the minutes that mattered, and the American public were anything but wholehearted in their support.

They clearly felt the German girl on the ice was not showing enough sparkle. But she paid no heed. She went in for the treble rittberger — and it came off!

Then the double axel, another success. And the treble salchow, yet another! She followed them with another salchow, a final double axel and her lightning final pirouette.

That was it. Where had she summoned the strength? She was at a loss to account for the phenomenon.

True, she may not have been the most sparkling skater speeding to a glorious victory, but there could be no doubt that the Olympic bronze medal was her due.

Her freestyle at Lake Placid was better than any she has skated over the past two years.

In its degree of technical difficulty it even exceeded the showing of Olympic gold and silver medallists Anett Pötzsch of the GDR and Linda Fratianne of the United States.

Both likewise skated faultless freestyle routines, although the US girl stole the show from the European champion with her more impressive style.

But the East German girl's lead was unassailable and, noticeably enough, the fair US public accepted the jury's decision. They gave her a big hand as she was awarded her medal.

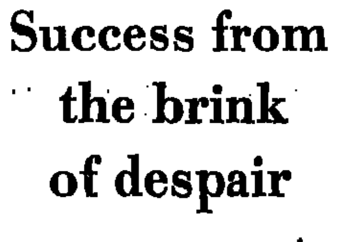
Who will take Dagmar Lurz's place when she retires, as she plans to do after the Dortmund world championships? The answer came from Karin Riediger.

The Duisburg girl was the only competitor to even attempt five treble jumps in her freestyle routine.

As a result of her poor showing in the set piece routine she finished 13th, but if she keeps up the good work she should win medal honours before much longer.

Christine Riegel of Stuttgart finished 18th out of 22, but Sonja Henie of Norway, who went on to win three Olympic gold medals, finished last in her first Olympic Games.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 February 1980)





Dagmar Lurz
(Photo: dpa)

Tables turned in biathlon

There was a happy end for the West German biathlon team at Mount Van Hoevenberg, Lake Placid. Franz Bernreiter, Hansi Estner, Peter Angerer and Gerd Winkler were all smiles.

Four years earlier at Innsbruck the West German team had been pipped at the post by the GDR men, who won bronze. This time they made sure of that bronze medal.

Excitement reached fever pitch as Gerd Winkler, the last man, pointed his gun for the last time.

"If he scores a hit we've made it," said coach Norbert Baier. Winkler had to reload, but a hit it was, and with it a bronze medal, leaving Norway in fourth place.

It was the fourth time in succession, starting at Grenoble in 1968, that the Soviet team won gold.

The GDR had to make do with silver because Eberhard Rösch, their No. 4, had a bad attack of nerves in the shooting. "What a good job others have 'em too," the West Germans said. This time their marksmanship was not marred by nerves.

"The strain was tremendous. At last year's world championships in Ruhpolding, Bavaria, we were only eighth. But this time everyone was expecting us to win the bronze," Peter Angerer confided.

As No. 3 in the team he had worked their way up to the No. 5 slot, laying the groundwork for the medal.

There was jubilation in the West German camp at Mount Van Hoevenberg. In the individual the four had skied fast but proved poor marksmen.

The relay was like a whodunnit, and the coaches and team officials looked on with bated breath. "I can't take much more of this," said Professor Dietrich Martin, team official in charge of Nordic skiing.

Franz Bernreiter from Rabenstein was only 11th on his return from the first lap, having had to reload three times in the standing shooting, yet scoring two hits.

Hansi Estner from Wall gained three places. He went flat out on his skis, had to reload but was not penalised.

Peter Angerer from Hammer, eighth in the 10km sprint, ran a superb race. "If he goes on to score a hit he might even win us a medal," said coach Baier.

He did, leaving his team in third place behind the Soviet Union and the GDR.

…
(Kieler Nachrichten, 23 February 1980)